



# Record jobless drop points to June election

By Robin Oakley and David Smith

A record drop in the unemployment figures yesterday further increased the prospects of a June election. Ministers now expect the unemployment total to drop below the important level of three million within months.

The jobless total dropped last month by 71,427 to 3,225,809 — the biggest fall since 1973 — and the seasonally-adjusted figure was down by 44,000 to 3,074,000. The February figure was greeted with considerable relief after a small drop of 1,100 in the total in January.

Lord Young of Graffham, Secretary of State for Employment, said: "We have now had falls for seven months in a row. There appears little doubt that the monthly fall, which has been running at about 20,000, will continue, as will our stronger economic performance, particularly after the Chancellor's Budget measures."

Other senior ministers said privately they believed that whenever an election was held this year it would now be against the backdrop of a continually falling total of unemployed.

An election delay until the autumn would run the risk of a break in the downward trend

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In all other regions there was a 0.1 point drop.

As the election atmosphere at Westminster intensified, Mr Neil Kinnock, leader of the Opposition, set out the Labour Party's bargaining terms for the implementation of the Budget if the Government went for a June election, requiring the speedy passing of the Finance Bill.

It would seek to deny the Government the 2p cut in the standard rate of income tax, demanding instead the introduction of a lower rate band of tax, to assist people on average and below average earnings.

The prospect of Labour's succeeding in such tactics would depend on the haste with which the Government called the election. The

Government's business managers believe they would be able to push through the Finance Bill with its main tax-cutting measures intact, although there will be no attempt to see the Finance Bill into the Commons before Easter.

Both Mr Kinnock and Mr Roy Hattersley, the Shadow Chancellor, attacked the Government for its announcement that it intended to sell off its £4.8 billion stake in BP — a move which surprised even Conservative MPs.

Mr Kinnock called it the latest example of the Government selling off the family silver and said it was "an attempt to raise a Chancellor who is in a jam today."

Mr Kinnock said Labour would stop the BP sale if it came into power.

Mr Hattersley said that according to Tuesday's Budget statement, the Chancellor had been planning for a public sector borrowing requirement of £4 billion and asset sales of £5 billion. But on Wednesday morning the Government had announced asset sales of a further £4.75 billion not publicly included in the calculations.

Mr Hattersley asked why, if the sale of BP had been included in the Budget calculations, it was not announced to the Commons at that time. He claimed that it appeared to be a "sudden panic measure" which was the only way the Chancellor could finance his tax cuts and hold down the borrowing requirement.

## 'Evil and dangerous man' who led the mob



## Blakelock killers get life sentences

By Stewart Tandler  
Crime Reporter

Three men were given life sentences yesterday at the Central Criminal Court for the murder of PC Keith Blakelock, who was stabbed and hacked to death when he fell at the feet of a mob during the Tottenham riots on the Broadwater Farm Estate in 1985.

Winston Silcott, the ringleader who wielded a machete at the head of the policeman, was described by Mr Justice Hodgson as "both a very evil and very dangerous man".

The judge recommended a minimum of 30 years in prison for the former green-grocer, aged 27.

The other two men, Raghip Enghin and Mark Brathwaite, who are both aged 20 and unemployed from north London addresses, were each given life for murder.

Silcott was given 10 years for rioting and the other two were each given eight years.

The three men were convicted on the 40th day of the trial after the jury had been out for three days. Several of the jurors were in tears as their unanimous verdicts were announced. Silcott shook his head.

The court was full, with lawyers, journalists and police standing packed around the dock. There were shouts and swearing from the public gallery after the sentences were passed.

At the beginning of the trial, in January, three juveniles were also charged with the murder and with riot and affray.

Two, aged 15 and 16, were ordered to be acquitted by the judge after he ruled their confessions inadmissible. He criticized the police for the way they interviewed the juveniles.

The murder charge against the third, aged 15, was dropped after the credibility of the prosecution witness against him was destroyed during cross-examination.

The youth was yesterday convicted of affray and given 120 days of community service.



PC Blakelock: hacked to death

Detectives who investigated the murder have identified up to another 17 suspects of whom they believe four or five definitely took part in the incident.

All 17 were interviewed but none confessed and some were charged with other offences for which at least one has been convicted.

Yesterday Mr Justice Hodgson praised the "conspicuous gallantry" of PC Blakelock's unit, police serial 502, which was attacked three hours after the start of the riot as it protected firemen on the estate coping with a fire on the first floor of the Tangmere block.

The riot began at about 7pm on Sunday, October 6, the day before Mrs Cynthia Jarrett died of a heart attack as police were searching her home near the estate. The death came when tension was already high in the area.

On the Sunday there were protests outside Tottenham police station, a lull and then the riot.

Police believe the rioters were planning another march on the station to set it alight, but they attacked police vans on the estate and the riot started.

By the time it was over police had been fired on by at least three gunmen and 255 officers were injured by the convicted.

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## Rank pull out of S Africa

The office copier group Rank Xerox is to withdraw from South Africa "in response to worldwide pressure from governments and shareholders". A spokesman said the company was "concerned for the social situation in South Africa".

Rank Xerox is jointly owned by the Rank Organisation and Xerox Corporation of America.

## IMF shock

A top IMF official, Mr Dick Finch, was reported to have resigned in protest at the increasing political use made of the organization by the United States.

## Saunders sued

Guinness is suing Mr Ernest Saunders, its former chairman and chief executive, and Mr Thomas Ward, a director of the company, over the mystery £2.5 million payment to a Jersey company.

## Giro cuts rate

National Girobank, the Post office banking subsidiary, has become the first lender to lower its home loan rate with a one percentage point cut to 11.5 per cent.

## Hughes waits

Manchester United watched their former forward, Mark Hughes, play for Barcelona against Dundee United with a view to buying back the Welsh international.

## Rolls debt is to be written off

The Government yesterday gave its second major boost to the privatization programme within 24 hours with the announcement that £23 million of Rolls-Royce's borrowings were to be written off in the build-up to the aero-engine company's spring flotation.

Confirmation of the write-off, in the form of a state subscription for new shares in the company, came in the wake of the surprise decision by the Treasury to sell the Government's remaining stake in British Petroleum, which could raise £1 billion.

Labour Party leaders were furious at the BP sale, describing it as a further "sell-off of the family silver", while trade union leaders denounced the Rolls-Royce privatization. Rolls-Royce's chairman, Sir Francis Tombs, yesterday announced much-improved profits of £120 million for 1986 against £77 million in 1985 and hinted at a further improvement in the current year.

Enthusiasm for the oil industry among investors is likely to be encouraged by good figures yesterday from British. The privatized company shrugged off the fall in the oil price and announced a final dividend to shareholders.

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## Kinnock snub for Scargill

Mr Neil Kinnock has repudiated Mr Arthur Scargill by backing South Wales miners who have accepted plans for six-day production at a new £80 million mine in West Glamorgan.

In a letter to the men's leaders, accused by Mr Scargill of being "collaborators", Mr Kinnock praised them for their "courage and foresight".

Mr Scargill, president of the National Union of Mine-workers, had attacked the deal and said that heavy job losses could follow if similar working arrangements were accepted at other pits.

In his letter to Mr George Rees, the NUM's South Wales area secretary, Mr Kinnock spoke of the "particularly positive" policy adopted by the South Wales area. It had demonstrated in the most practical way the determination of the South Wales miners to secure employment for the future and to push back the tide of imports which had been allowed to rise considerably.

The South Wales miners have also received backing from the Wales TUC and Mr George Wright, Welsh regional secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union has said his members will work the new pit if Mr Scargill blocks the agreement.

## Silcott surrounded himself with an aura of fear

By a Staff Reporter

Winston Silcott, the "evil and dangerous man" convicted yesterday as the ringleader in the killing of P.C. Keith Blakelock, was already facing a murder charge the night he attacked the police constable with a machete.

Unknown to the jury he was already serving a life sentence for murder as they listened to the 40 days of evidence at the Old Bailey trial.

Silcott, 27 years old and single, has faced a murder jury four times, including one retrial. He already had a lengthy string of convictions and there is still a grievous bodily harm charge outstanding. It will "remain on file".

In 1980 he was charged with the murder of a musician who was stabbed during a West Indian "blues" party. He was acquitted after a retrial.

In 1984 he was again charged with the murder of another man stabbed at another "blues" party and was convicted in February 1986.

## Czechoslovaks toe the Gorbachov line

Vienna (Reuters) — President Husak of Czechoslovakia has said his country, one of the most conservative in the communist bloc, will adopt far-reaching Soviet-style political and economic reforms.

In an address to the Central Committee of the ruling Communist Party, he promised the biggest change in the country's economic management system since a mass nationalization programme after the Second World War.

Mr Husak was speaking less than three weeks before a planned visit to Prague by the Soviet leader, Mr Mikhail Gorbachov.

He said the party must consider democratic reforms already proposed by Mr Gorbachov, including secret ballots for party posts, and called for a more open information policy.

"We want people to know what is happening in our country, what is being decided and how it is being decided," he said.

Mr Husak dismissed as fabrication Western reports of disputes within the Czechoslovak leadership about how to respond to the Soviet reforms, and said his country's position reflected a "united stand taken by the party presidium".

Czechoslovakia has had more trouble than most East bloc states in responding to the Gorbachov reforms, as they recall the liberalizing principles of the 1968 "Prague Spring" reform which was crushed by a Warsaw Pact invasion.

Mr Husak made a rare use of the word "reform" for the proposals for change. Normally Czechoslovak leaders shy away from the term.

According to a report of his speech by the official news agency Ceteka, monitored here, Mr Husak said that Mr Gorbachov's proposals for January were "drawing extraordinary response in the whole Czechoslovak party and people".

## Kinnock mocked on missiles

By Philip Webster

Mr Neil Kinnock confirmed last night that a Labour government would not put a time limit on a superpower arms agreement before insisting on the removal of cruise missiles from Britain.

But he hoped it would be agreed in under a year.

He will tell President Reagan next week that cruise can remain pending a deal to remove all intermediate range missiles from Europe.

Labour may support a staged withdrawal of the missiles but he would not want to stay if there was a "total and final" agreement that some missiles should be left on either side.

The Prime Minister yesterday mocked Labour's change over cruise. "It would seem the Leader of the Opposition simply cannot bear going to the United States to defend an indefensible defence policy, and therefore for the time being he has said he believes in cruise missiles", she said.

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The management and financing of schools taking this route would closely parallel that put forward for 20 proposed city technology colleges.

However, serious practical difficulties remain, not least the question of long-term responsibility for a school that deserted the local authority fold under one group of governors but later struggled to attract sufficient pupils.

Once the details are complete, the next Conservative manifesto will be drafted in its final form.

## Protest at council riot 'obstruction'

By Martin Fletcher, Political Reporter

London Tory MPs reacted angrily last night when told of allegations that Haringey Council had hampered the police in their search for evidence following the Broadwater Farm riots.

They claimed the council's actions were themselves "criminal" and said there could be no clearer example of Labour's intrinsic hostility to the police.

Mr John Wheeler, chairman of the London group of Conservative MPs and a former prison governor, said the director of Public Prosecutions should consider charging the council leaders with obstructing the police.

He said the council's action, in line with the tactics of the entire London Labour party, demonstrated that Labour was against the rule of law and he urged council employees to refuse to obey instructions.

Mr Ian Twinn, MP for neighbouring Edmonton, said it was "absolutely disgraceful" that elected councillors should stand in the way of the police.

Mr Harry Greenway, MP for Ealing, described Haringey's actions as "outrageous" and "a gross denial of legal procedures".

Sir Geoffrey Finsberg, whose Hampstead and Highgate constituency borders Haringey, said the council's actions demonstrated "what a folly it would be to allow Labour councils have control over the police".

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They also had evidence that there was a plan to cut off P.C. Blakelock's head and put it on the end of a pole to taunt the police and that a blood-smeared Silcott had boasted to the rioters: "This is bullman (police) blood." This evidence was ruled inadmissible.

Silcott seemed unmoved by the verdict in the packed and tense No.2 court.

He looked up to the public gallery and had his hands in his pockets as he was led away.

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NEWS SUMMARY

# £10m Constable goes to nation

The most important Constable painting still in private hands, "Stratford Mill", is to be given to the National Gallery under a tax settlement scheme.

Mr Richard Luce, Minister for the Arts, announced yesterday that the work had been accepted in lieu of inheritance tax amounting to £5.5 million.

It has a market value of £10 million, and is the most valuable item acquired for the nation under the scheme.

The painting was purchased by Sir Reginald Macdonald-Buchanan at Christie's in 1951 for just under £50,000, and is being given after the recent death of Lady Macdonald-Buchanan.

Mr Neil MacGregor, the director of the gallery, said: "We are profoundly grateful to receive such an important and fine example of Constable's work."

An oil on canvas measuring 50in by 71in, it is being kept under police guard at a secret location until transfer procedures are completed.

## £2m ferry 19 given rabies jab

Extra compensation of up to £2 million for the victims of the Zeebrugge ferry disaster is to be made available by P & O, the parent company of Townsend Thoresen, which owns the capsized Herald of Free Enterprise.

Sir Jeffrey Sterling, P & O chairman, said no definite limit had been set on the extra compensation, which would be on top of the £250,000 disaster fund already set up by the company.

A public inquiry into the disaster is to open on April 27.

Nineteen people have received anti-rabies injections after coming into contact with a boy aged eight, who is showing the symptoms of the disease. Indrajit Singh Hayre, from Handsworth, Birmingham, is believed to have contracted rabies after being bitten by a dog in India at Christmas.

He is on a life support system in an isolation unit at the East Birmingham Hospital, where yesterday his condition was said to be stable.

The 19 include doctors, nurses, family and friends.

## Royal charity games

Four members of the Royal Family are to take part in an "It's a Knockout" tournament for charity this summer.

The spectacle is the inspiration of Prince Edward, who has persuaded Princess Anne and the Duke and Duchess of York to captain international teams.

The show will be broadcast by the BBC from the Alton Towers leisure park in Staffordshire on June 15.

Prince Edward will captain a team raising funds for the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme international project, Princess Anne will head a team for her favourite, Save the Children Fund, the Duke of York a team for the Wildlife Fund and the Duchess of York a team for International Year of Shelter for the Homeless.

## Trainer's damages

Mrs Barbara Woodhouse, the dog trainer, won an apology, substantial undisclosed damages and costs from *Woman* magazine in the High Court yesterday over an allegation that her exclusive design of choke chain was capable of crushing a dog's neck. She intends to give the damages to charity.

Mr Thomas Shields, for Mrs Woodhouse, of Crossley Green, near Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire, said: "The impression was that by introducing that chain to the mass market she was guilty of causing cruelty."

## Teacher reprieved

A deputy headmaster who was dismissed after firing a starting pistol in class was reinstated last night after legal action by the National Union of Teachers.

The London Borough of Merton, south London, withdrew its dismissal of Mr Ron Etherington, aged 55, of Benedict Primary School, Morden. He will remain suspended on full pay.

The decision comes after the issuing of a High Court writ by the NUT, which claimed the correct disciplinary procedures were not followed.

Mr Etherington was dismissed last week. He admitted that the pistol had been fired, but denied that it was aimed at an unruly pupil.

## Detectives believe they know the identities of up to 17 of the mob that

# Wall of fear and hostility dogged Blakelock hunt

By Stewart Tindler, Crime Reporter

A violent frieze of hundreds of coloured photographs taken during the Tottenham riots 18 months ago still decorates walls at Southgate police station, headquarters of the Blakelock murder inquiry.

Here the camera caught a petrol bomber perfectly outlined by the flame of an exploding car; there a gang of youths stands with weapons poised.

Some figures bear little yellow stickers with numbers showing the individual has been identified. Many other rioters are still unknown because there were few who did not wear masks that night in October 1985.

What none of the photographs shows is the last few moments in the life of Police Constable Blakelock.

The three camera teams were in the thick of the riot on the other side of the estate and no one recorded what started as a side-show on the first floor of Tangmere block and ended with frenzied murder.

With clues and evidence such as the photographs police have charged 159 people with taking part in the riot. Twenty, thirty, forty people — no one can be certain — took part in the attack on PC Blakelock.

Six of the 159 were charged with that killing. The other killers remain as anonymous as the masked figures.

Detectives believe they know the identities of up to 17 of the mob that attacked the constable and those who fired shots at police, but cannot go to court against anyone.

Detectives could be forgiven for thinking the term, no-go area, had taken on a new meaning.

The search for PC Blakelock's killers was dogged by fear, hostility from Harrogate council and legal obstruction.

But it has also been ruined by the police.

Cases against two juveniles collapsed because the judge ruled that confessions had been wrongfully made under the new Police and Criminal Evidence Act and the Children and Young Offenders Act had been breached as well.

The crown's only "eyewitness" proved to be a liar and the case against a youth aged 15 was thrown out.

In the absence of the jury, Mr Justice Hodgson acknowledged the frustrations and pressures on police but was highly critical of their behaviour in both cases. In dealing with one youth they had been "burdensome, harsh and wrong".

But when the police began investigating it was clear that confessions and eyewitnesses were unreliable.

The inquiry into the Tottenham riot led to the arrest of 359 people of whom 159 were later charged with various offences. Up to the murder trial 101 individuals had been dealt with and of these 88 either pleaded guilty or were convicted.

The highest sentence was at the Central Criminal Court so far was eight years for affray and throwing petrol bombs.

The defendants have been divided almost equally between black and white. One was aged 12, two were 13, three were 14, 11 were aged 15, 15 were aged 16. The majority were teenagers or in their early 20s. Five were 29 or older.

There were no fingerprints even on the knife found embedded up to the hilt sticking six inches into PC Blakelock's neck. The killers had plenty of time to get rid of bloodstained clothing or anything taken from the stricken constable, his riot helmet has never been found.

The police received 88 emergency calls from the estate during the evening of the riot but only two people have been prepared to give evidence in any court case.

From the beginning police say their search for evidence

was hampered by the council. On the morning after the riot council workmen began clearing away debris which might have yielded clues.

Police wanted to search the huge dustbins under each of the blocks of flats for evidence. The council opposed this, so the police brought in private contractors, emptied the rubbish, raked through it and then returned it to the council.

Police wanted to search uninhabited flats on the estate in case they contained weapons, stolen goods or other material. One flat was opened 16 hours after police asked to be allowed in and stolen property was discovered. They were refused access to any others by the council.

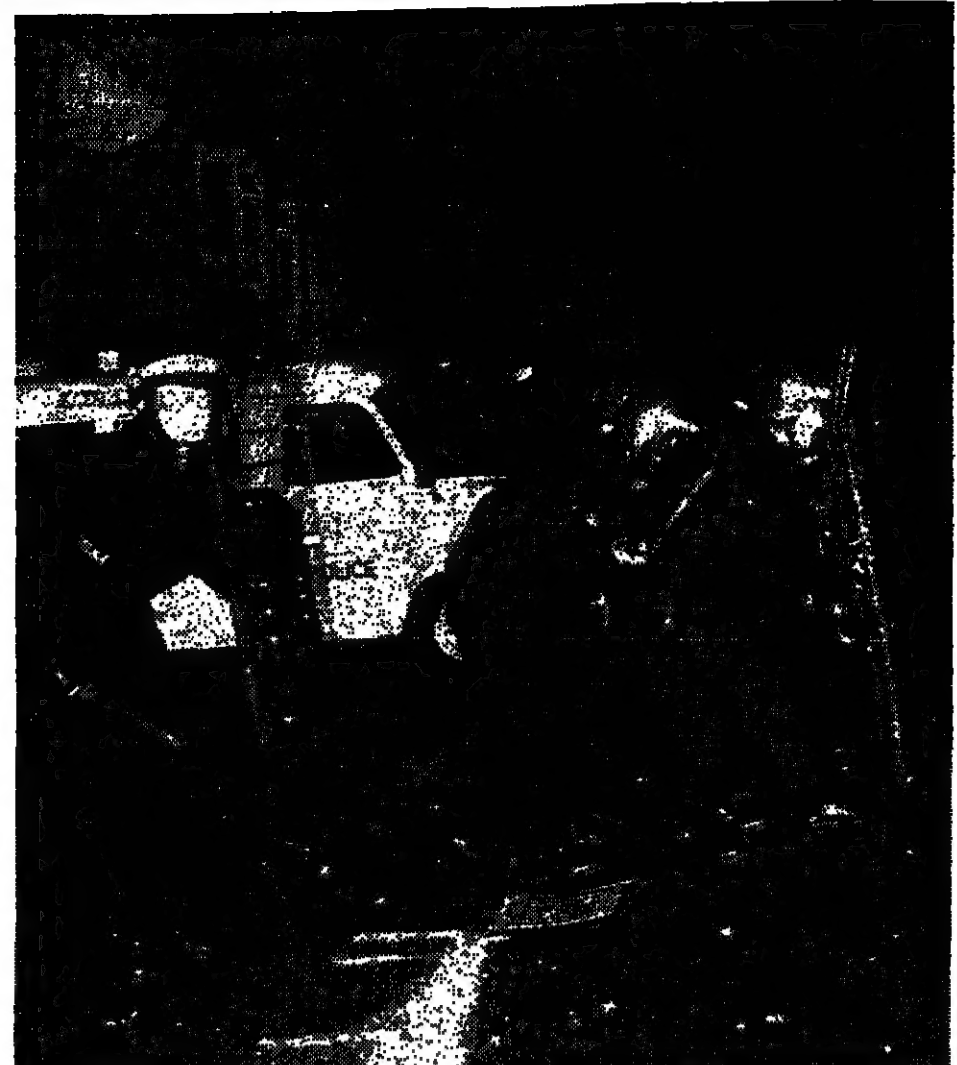
When police began interviewing juveniles they had difficulties with social workers from the council who monitored the interviews. The workers were told by the council they could not take part in the interviews unless the council allowed them to tell the juveniles not to answer any more questions because they could incriminate themselves.

There are also complaints about a number of defending solicitors and the role of the defence committee which worked with them. In one case a witness wanted to be legally represented and instructed the same solicitor as a defendant.

The solicitor eventually agreed to give up representing the witness who then chose another solicitor representing another main defendant. The witness could identify.

Police believe witnesses had been willing to talk to police until the arrival of solicitors. During the trial Detective Chief Supt Graham Melvin, who led the murder inquiry, accused law firms of a lack of integrity and several solicitors have been reported to the Law Society.

The murder case got under way with a 10ft high pile of statements and interviews, including the alleged confessions of the six accused, one



Police with riot shields and batons during the riots on the Broadwater Farm Estate in 1985

eyewitness, and a possible second.

Police believe they could have found up to a dozen other witnesses who could have described the murder, shown how Silcott took the machete and struck the policeman, implicated another three defendants, given more details of the attack by Braithwaite and painted a clearer picture of the killing.

Witnesses were prepared to go to prison for long sentences rather than risk their lives going into the witness box. Convicted rioters told detectives that better treatment in prison or remission of sentences meant little against their personal safety which the police could not guarantee.

Those who would give evidence would only do so if they could give it in disguise.

Police believed they had one key witness against Silcott in the shape of a youth aged 16 convicted of stealing petrol and using threatening behavior in the riot.

In his statements the youth had described seeing Silcott with a machete on his arm. Later he had seen him

smear with blood, announcing "see them blood there, see them blood there" and saying a policeman had been stabbed.

At the committal for the murder trial the youth retracted what he had said and was treated as a hostile witness. He did not appear at the trial and the judge eventually issued an arrest warrant.

The youth was finally found and brought to court after the prosecution case ended, saying that he had been threatened not to appear and gone into hiding. He said he would give evidence. A solicitor and counsel saw him. The youth then seemed confused and the prosecution gave up.

The crown also had sections of confessions by two of the accused youths and Raghip which clearly identified Silcott, but the judge ruled this could not be given to the jury and he would be identified only by a letter when the statements were read out.

The only eyewitness left to the crown, Jason Cobham, identified one of the youths of taking part in the riot. Under cross-examination he admitted he had done more in the

riot than he had told the police.

He received a light sentence while a friend who had committed worse offences was sentenced to eight years. Mr Justice Hodgson told the court: "I have never heard a witness admit to lying so often."

By the end of the defence the crown had lost the cases against all three juveniles.

During legal submissions the judge told the court he had spent sleepless nights after allowing the case against the other youth aged 15 to go forward.

The youth, then 13, had given the police a tissue of fantasy which inexperienced and ill-informed detectives had not noticed. Wounds he claimed to have inflicted on PC Blakelock never existed.

Detectives say their treatment of suspects was affected by problems with social workers and solicitors who might make their inquiries more difficult by passing on information. Many officers were not trained in the new Act.

## Times ban may cost councillors thousands

Left-wing councillors in Brent, who were accused in court of illegally banning *The Times* and other News International publications from public libraries, now face the threat of having to pay thousands of pounds in legal costs.

At a hearing in the High Court in London yesterday, Mr Anthony Lester, QC, for the newspapers, said the district auditor would be asked to impose a personal surcharge upon those responsible for this loony behaviour.

"The district auditor will have to decide whether a council which bans *The Times* and not the *Morning Star* from its public libraries and which continues to do so after this court has declared such conduct to be a clear abuse of power should be able to have its costs paid by the councillors themselves rather than the unfortunate ratepayers", he said.

The council gave undertakings to the court not to continue the ban and to ensure that the newspapers were made available in its libraries from tomorrow.

The surcharge request would be taken up by Mr Hugo Reading, a self-employed sociology researcher and Brent ratepayer, who had joined the court action to ensure his local library would once again stock *The Times*, Mr Lester said.

Brent's undertakings were given after an adjournment of the case from Tuesday when Lord Justice Watkins and Mr Justice Mann began a judicial review of the ban. Mr Lester had claimed that Brent was continuing to back the newspapers in sympathy with printworkers who had gone on strike and were dismissed when printing moved to Wapping.

Mr Philip Engelman, for Brent, argued that the ban, imposed last June, had in fact been rescinded in February by the council which had then used its "best endeavours" to ensure it was lifted.

But Mr Lester said that there was strong evidence that the council had taken no action to give effect to the decision to rescind the ban until the day after the High Court action had opened. He successfully applied for costs against Brent on an indemnity basis. This means the council will pay all News International's costs rather than just the normal 70 to 80 per cent.

## Labour's plan to send everyone back to school

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor

The Labour Party yesterday produced an ambitious new plan to revolutionize the training of Britain's workforce.

The plan will involve compulsory contributions from employers. But party spokesmen could not say how much it would cost or how much firms would be required to pay.

Labour's aim is to "re-skill" Britain through three different schemes. The first is a new Adult Skillplan to develop lifelong training and education for everyone in work.

The second would draw together all education courses and training schemes for the over-16s in a Foundation Programme, superseding and incorporating the YTS scheme, guaranteeing at least two years of education, training and work experience.

The third would expand existing programmes for the unemployed in a new Jobs, Enterprise and Training Programme.

programme especially geared to the long-term unemployed.

In government, Labour would go on to develop a new "educational entitlement" for all adults, linked to an "educational passport" giving everyone the right to the equivalent of a year's full-time education during his or her working life, with priority for adults who did not benefit from further education.

Labour would also plan to develop a job or skill guarantee for all long-term unemployed, offering them either a job or high quality skills training.

The emergency aspects of the programme, including the provision of 360,000 new training places, would be funded out of the £6,000 million already allotted to Labour's jobs programme. But the remainder of the plans announced yesterday will be separately financed.

Labour has backed away from an earlier plan to impose

a levy of 1 per cent on company wage bills to finance firms' contributions to the training programme.

The precise form of funding is to be discussed with employers and trade unions after the completion of a training study by the Manpower Services Commission.

Mr Neil Kinnock confirmed at a press conference launching the proposals that all employers will be obliged to contribute to a new National Training Fund.

They will receive grants in return, and those who train above their own needs will receive more in grants than they pay in contributions.

Mr John Prescott, the Labour Party's employment spokesman, said Britain was spending four or five times less than its competitors and had to get close to what they were spending.

Mr John Prescott, the Labour Party's employment spokesman, said Britain was spending four or five times less than its competitors and had to get close to what they were spending.

New Skills for Britain (Labour Party, 150 Walworth Road, London SE17 1JT; 80p).

## Labour to fight loony left image in London

By Martin Fletcher

The Labour Party has set up a steering group of senior figures to limit the damage being inflicted on its electoral chances by the London "loony left".

The group, selected from the London Labour party, is to hold meetings with council leaders, parliamentary candidates, constituency activists and MPs to give a single and positive public line.

They will be urged to play down such issues as gay and lesbian rights and divert attention towards the record of Labour authorities on such matters as housing and job creation.

The move comes after the admission in a leaked letter by Miss Patricia Hewitt, Mr Neil Kinnock's press secretary, that the "London effect" was now very noticeable.

"The 'loony Labour left' is taking its toll: the gays and lesbians issue is costing us dear amongst the pensioners; and fear of extremism is particularly prominent in the GLC area", she wrote.

That letter, and the disastrous Greenwich by-election, provoked a backlash of recrimination by the party's right against the left-wingers and vice-versa.

## Judge lets contempt case drop

By Our Legal Affairs Correspondent

Judge Argyle, QC, who charged a juror with contempt of court and threatened him with a £2,000 fine, yesterday agreed to drop the charge.

Earlier in the week he was criticized by a Court of Appeal judge for his treatment of Mr Michael Warrell, who had spoken briefly to a witness at the Central Criminal Court.

Mr Warrell, aged 32, from Finsbury, north London, had gone to the High Court to challenge Judge Argyle's right to try him for contempt of court. At the hearing on Monday, Lord Justice Watkins said the judge should have done no more than tell the juror to be more careful.

When the hearing resumed yesterday, Mr Philip Hewitt, counsel for the Central Criminal Court, said that the judge would not be continuing with the contempt proceedings.

Mr Warrell withdrew his application for review.

The judge, who is 72 in August, prompted protests at the weekend with remarks about hanging, immigrants and the Government's law and order policy.

He was addressing students at Trent Polytechnic in Nottingham in what he believed would be an unreported speech. The students did, however, make a videotape of which the judge was aware.

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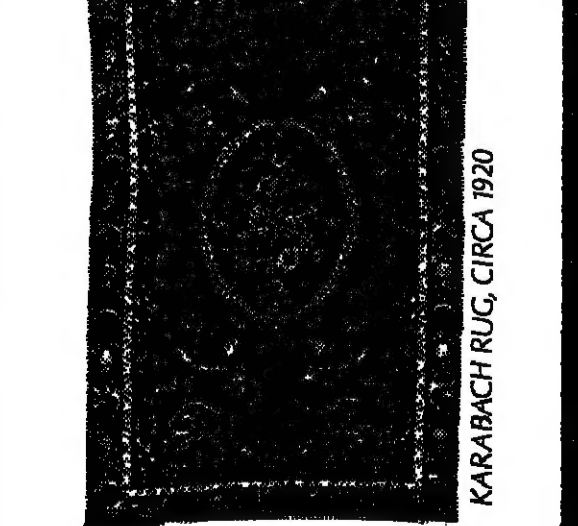
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attacked the constable and fired shots at police, but they cannot go to court against anyone

# Mob ringleader Silcott terrorized estate

## Tyrant guilty of an earlier knife murder

By Stewart Tandler, Crime Reporter

Winston Silcott, convicted yesterday as a ringleader in the murder of Police Constable Keith Blakelock, was surrounded by an aura of fear on the Broadwater Farm estate in Tottenham, north London.

His brushes with the law and his record of violence gave him a reputation which few would challenge.

Questioned by detectives eight months before the death of PC Blakelock about another murder, Silcott was asked if he had any enemies. He replied: "Only the police".

Police believe that four hours before PC Blakelock was murdered, Silcott was among speakers at a meeting on the estate calling for "an eye for an eye" in revenge for the death of Mrs Cynthia Jarrett during a police raid.

When the moment came, Silcott himself answered the murderous call with a machete.

Two of the youths charged with Silcott gave police

as he helped put a prisoner in a van after an arrest. The constable could not identify the man who attacked him but Silcott was the nearest. Detectives believe that if he did not carry out the stabbing, Silcott knew the culprit.

The next year he faced a fresh murder charge after the death of Mr Tony Smith, who was stabbed during an argument at another blues party, in Hackney, east London, in December 1984.

There had been friction between the man, a member of a local West Indian gang called the Yankes Possee, and friends of Silcott.

During the party Silcott and Smith got into an argument and Smith was stabbed, and later died. Silcott did not flee but stayed on at the party, wiping the knife and using it to divide cocaine.

When police began investigations they had no scientific evidence and 150 reluctant witnesses.

But they found a girl aged 17, from north London, who had chanced on the party and agreed to give evidence against Silcott.

Applications for Silcott's bail were refused by magistrates at a number of hearings. Police said that witnesses would be interfered with. Silcott was alleged to have poured scalding water on a friend of the murdered man while on remand.

He now faces a charge of grievous bodily harm for that attack.

Silcott eventually got bail after a hearing in chambers before Judge Lymbery, QC. In June 1985, Silcott broke the curfew in the bail conditions but local magistrates allowed him to remain free.

When the case came to trial in February last year, Silcott was jailed for life. While the trial was pending the girl witness was taken from the restaurant where she worked and threatened if she gave evidence. Police had to give her safe accommodation before the trial.

To get other witnesses to court police had to visit them each day to remind them or bolster their courage.

When Silcott was finally sentenced it was four months after he had been placed in custody, this time charged with the Blakelock murder.

Police had identified him as one of the key figures in the attack on the group of police including PC Blakelock. They

also believe a storeroom in his shop was used to prepare petrol bombs.

As tension built up on the Broadwater Farm estate on the Sunday after Mrs Cynthia Jarrett died, in October 1985, Silcott is said to have attended an ad hoc public meeting held in the estate's youth club and

watched by community leaders including Mr Bernie Grant, leader of Haringey Council, and Mr Roy Lim, the chief executive.

Silcott is said to have joined in, saying: "It has got to be an eye for an eye."

During the attack on PC Blakelock's police unit, officers saw a man hacking at colleagues with a machete. When the body was recovered there were eight wounds to the head caused by a machete or axe.

One had splintered the jaw bone in what looked like an attempt to sever the head.

When told by police that he would be charged with murder, Silcott allegedly told the police their only evidence was the word of children. The case would not get to court.

He told Det Chief Supt Graham Melvin, in charge of the murder inquiry: "You can't keep me away from them... they won't give evidence against me. No one will give evidence against me."

The estate is the focus of the "Extending Rights and Defending Services" campaign of Labour-controlled Haringey council, but Mrs Pat Selim, a local Conservative councillor, says half the residents voted



PC Keith Blakelock, right, on September 3 1985, with a group of 25 Asian children who made an educational visit to Muswell Hill Police Station. The group's organizer later spoke of the "tremendous patience and kindness" PC Blakelock had shown and how he had prepared drinks for them and shared his biscuits with the children. "His kindness overwhelmed us."

### Police tactics

## Night of hard-learned lessons

By Our Crime Reporter

Senior police commanders now accept that their contingency plans for fighting disorder on the Broadwater Farm Estate hopelessly miscalculated the size of the crowd they would face.

The plans were drawn up on the premise that they would face gangs of 50 to 70 youths but never the hundreds who formed the mobs which rampaged on the estate. And, for the first time, police faced firearms in street disorder.

Amid speculation of fresh trouble with the convicted at the end of the Blakelock murder trial, police say they have learnt the lessons of October 1985 and are ready for any trouble. They say there are new plans, better trained police and better trained commanders.

They have also tried to

reduce tension on the estate to prevent any repetition. However, according to Commander David Polkinghorne, who was second in command during the riot, the estate remains difficult to police. Now, as then, tension indicators are high.

The police have worked to improve community relations

Leading article 13

but have been hampered by an unresponsive local council in dealing with the problem of young people. Mr. Polkinghorne said that without more help from parents and teachers the future looks bleak.

One sergeant and 12 constables patrol the estate in four-man shifts from early morning to midnight. But there are no day-to-day con-

tacts with the 400 members of the Broadwater Farm Youth Association and, according to Chief Supt David Stainesby, who is in charge of the Tottenham area, both the police and the population of Broadwater Farm have been unable to shake off the events of October 1985 and the murder of PC Blakelock.

Since the riot, there have been questions about whether the trouble or PC Blakelock's death need ever have happened. During the trial one constable told the court that he and his colleagues believe their leaders reacted without enough force.

But both Mr Polkinghorne and Mr Stainesby believe the police strategy was correct. That weekend there were rumours of an attack on the Wood Green shopping centre.

Two hundred officers were on alert and by the Sunday afternoon all tension seemed to have disappeared.

When trouble started at 7pm it was too late for the police to operate their contingency plan and take the walkways.

Mr Polkinghorne said: "The plan for the Broadwater Farm never took into account disorder on such a scale. We could have dealt with an average minor riot... this was something far greater."

Police tactics became a matter of containing the rioters to prevent them either running deeper into the estate or breaking out into areas where there were shops. Police felt there was little else they could do because guns had been fired.

Mr Polkinghorne said: "Had we gone into the estate we could have lost more officers from guns."

Police came close to using plastic bullets but shortly after Sir Kenneth Newman, the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, agreed to their use, PC Blakelock and his colleagues in serial 502 were committed to help firemen.

It was later asked whether the small squad of officers should have gone forward without reinforcements and, during the trial, the senior officer in the area said he had asked for an extra 60 officers shortly after 9pm. They were promised but never arrived.

The firemen were trying to save property and lives at a time when the whole of the Tottenham block was at risk.

### Radical tactical rethink

The Tottenham riot caused less physical damage than some other disturbances in Britain since 1981, but its ferocity and the toll of injuries have forced the police into a radical rethink of how they will deal with fresh riots.

The riot ended with a total of one murder, four robberies, 38 cases of arson, 53 cases of criminal damage, two thefts, nine burglaries and 239 assaults on police or public.

Scotland Yard issued its new strategy for public order last summer in the wake of the Tottenham riot and trouble at Brixton shortly before.

Sir Kenneth Newman, the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, said even before then that disorder would in future be met with a tough response. The report detailed what that would mean.

By May the Yard will have taken delivery of 24 armoured Land Rovers built to police specifications. London now has 12 converted Army armoured personnel carriers.

The police also have better equipment to fight rioters with aggressive tactics.

Eight hundred officers have been recruited to form anti-riot squads, known as territorial support groups, across London.

Senior policemen have been formed into special command teams across London to take control of dealing with riots. Greater stocks of CS gas and plastic bullets have been made available, and officers are in future unlikely to shrink from using them.

## Three killers jailed for life

Continued from page 1

rioting crowds. Thirty four cars and four buildings were burnt.

In the late evening the fighting moved away from Tottenham. The block was quiet when police and firemen arrived but they were attacked by a mob, many of them masked.

PC Blakelock, aged 40 and the father of three children, fell to the ground. He was pounced on by a crowd of up to 40 people. One fireman said later that the attack was like "pushing over an ant's nest".

PC Blakelock was stabbed 40 times. There were wounds to his jawbone as though to cut off his head, and a knife was stuck six inches deep into his head. His helmet had been taken off and has never been recovered.

As other officers came to his aid, one constable said the crowd "were like vultures pecking at something on the ground".

Sergeant Pengelly, armed with a truncheon and a shield, attacked the mob single-handed and routed them but it was too late to save his colleague.

Silcott never admitted any involvement in the attack. Raghip, of Partridge Way, Wood Green, told police, "it was like when you see a man in the films with dogs on him".

Raghip saw the policeman try to protect himself as the crowd knocked each other over in his desire to reach him. When Raghip got close there

The record length for jury deliberations in a Central Criminal Court case is eight days in the Cyprus Spy trial in 1985 and the Terry May murder case several years earlier. The jury in the Blakelock trial was the second chosen to hear the case. The first was stood down after one of the defence counsel said he knew a woman among the 12.

The jury panel was one of the biggest assembled, with several hundred potential jurors.

The judge made it clear he was prepared to see any jury included black members. The first jury had two and the second one.

were too many people already around the body and he tried to get close by jumping over them.

Braithwaite, of Canonbury Villas, Islington, told police he hit PC Blakelock on the side and leg with a two-foot bar. Others were busy stabbing the policeman, who made groaning noises.

Sir Ian Percival, the former Solicitor-General, said last night that the murder of PC Blakelock was an instance of "the dreadful evil sweeping over the country".

Sir Ian, the Conservative MP for Southport, tabled a new clause to the Criminal Justice Bill earlier this week calling for the death penalty for those found guilty by a unanimous verdict of killing in "evil" circumstances.



PC Richard Coombes, left, who accompanied PC Keith Blakelock during the riots and was killed by the mob; Sergeant David Pengelly, centre, who was in charge of PC Blakelock's unit; and Divisional Fire Officer Trevor Stratford who tried to save the murdered policeman.

### Broadwater Farm Estate

## Hatred for police still lurks

By Toby Young

Conservative in the local elections last May.

The only way to make sense of these conflicting impressions is to examine the role of Tottenham police force, whose job is to maintain law and order on the estate.

For Broadwater Farm is still capable of flaring up as it did on October 6, 1985, that is because relations between certain sections of the estate and the police have not sufficiently improved since the riot.

Attitudes to the police are not all hostile, however. During the riot, several residents brought tea out to them.

Some officers have gone to extraordinary lengths to try to rebuild confidence in the police since the riot.

PC Dalwinder Babu, aged 23, has been patrolling the estate for most of his three years as a police officer. He also helps a Haringey-run handicapped school bordering on the estate and has organized trips to the country for pupils of another school.

Yet despite these efforts, some remain antagonistic to the police. Mrs Sheila Randon, a black mother aged 23, said: "I don't think much of PC Babu. The police are using him to get information out of the kids."

Walking around Broadwater Farm with PC Babu and his colleague, PC Philip Tiddy, you feel the hostility of local youths.

Part of the problem is the refusal of Haringey Council Police Committee to co-operate with the local Police Consultative Committee on the grounds that the Tottenham police, like the Metropolitan Police, are "racist".

This makes the job of Chief Supt Allen Stainesby, head of Tottenham police, extremely difficult. "They refuse to co-operate with us until we prove we're non-racist. To achieve that I need their co-operation," he said. There is one small point of contact between the community, the council, and the Tottenham police - the Broadwater Farm Panel.

It meets every six weeks to hear local residents' grievances. Mr Bernie Grant, leader of Haringey council, sits with Mrs Dolly Kiffin, the chairman of the Broadwater Farm Youth Association, and Mr Leonardo Leon, chairman of the Residents' Association, to answer questions from the floor. The "floor" consists of half-a-dozen residents. PC Babu, Inspector David Hudson, who heads the 12-strong team who patrol the estate, and Chief Superintendent Stainesby.

He says: "It's very useful but it's hardly adequate when it comes to liaising between the police and the local community. We need a proper, formal structure."

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## I stand by what I said, insists Grant

By Toby Young

"I said 'The youths believe that the police got a bloody good hiding' and I stick by that", he said.

Mr Grant, aged 42, did concede that policing in the area had become more sensitive since the riot 18 months ago.

"The reports I am getting are that the police are behaving much better since the disturbances. There is no longer wholesale racial abuse on the streets, and the situation has improved tremendously in terms of the respect police now appear to have for

black people generally". Mr Grant paid tribute to Chief Supt Alan Stainesby, of Tottenham police division, for proposing the setting up of a rape and child abuse centre, which will be paid for by Haringey council and staffed by police experts.

"Such a joint venture would have been impossible without the Broadwater Farm background", he said.

"We are beginning to see a bit of spin-off. We feel we can work with Stainesby and other senior officers to make progress", he said.

Mr Bernie Grant, Labour leader of Haringey council, has no regrets about the statements he made immediately after the Tottenham riots.

Mr Grant, prospective parliamentary candidate for the safe Labour seat of Tottenham (Labour majority 9,396), said after PC Keith Blakelock's death that "the police got a bloody good hiding".

This week Mr Grant said: "No, that remark was not a mistake. I was putting forward a legitimate view and I still maintain that view."

Mr Grant says policing more sensitive now.

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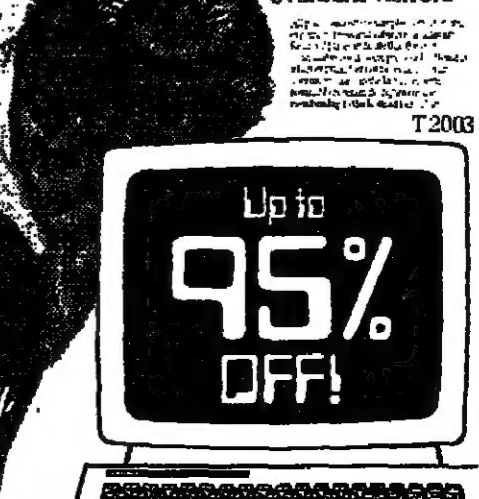
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# Gummer under 'beef' attack

Mr John Gummer, Minister of State for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, came under pressure from Conservative MPs during Commons questions to work for a reduction in the value of the green pound and to remember the difficulties faced by the beef industry.

The gap between the return and the target price for beef in this marketing year was something in the order of £69 million.

What was his intention with regard to the green pound devaluation and also in regard to the suckler-cow premium?

Mr Gummer dismissed talk of complacency. The Government had ensured that there was the opportunity of increasing the suckler-cow premium and of getting a devaluation of the green pound.

The Government had ensured that the British beef industry had got a better deal than any other country in Europe. Mr Macdonald did not know the facts and the figures and he constantly complained.

Mr David Harris (St Ives, C) asked Mr Gummer to accept that beef production was probably the most vulnerable sector of agriculture at present.

Would he go to Brussels and bring about a real further reduction in the value of the green pound to correct the situation of recent months?

Mr Gummer said that the beef sector did have a number of problems. The Government would be negotiating to get the best deal for Britain where possible. This would be a major matter.

Mr Richard Lacey (Breckon and Radnor, L) said the beef settlement in the December agreement was a total disaster for British producers.

The only thing that would put it right would be double-digit devaluation of the green pound and nothing less.

Mr Gummer repeated that Britain had got the best deal of any country in the European Community. "We shall continue to fight for the interests of the British farmer and we shall continue to be successful."

Mr Michael Lord (Central, C) said that many beef producers in East Angles were finding things quite difficult. "They are going through extremely difficult times and without a little bit more help, I fear some of them are going to go under."

A Government undertaking that hill-farm producers of lamb should not suffer financial loss as a result of fall-out after the Chernobyl disaster was sought by Mr Dale Campbell-Savours (Wokingham, Lab) at question time.

He asked that such farmers, particularly those in the Lake District, whose flocks had been contaminated as a result of the nuclear power station accident, should be insulated against losses.

Mr John Gummer, Minister of State for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, said that, unlike any other country in Europe, the Government had done a great deal to compensate hill farmers who had suffered. There had been no word of gratitude from the Opposition for that.

After three stages of help for the farmers concerned, the Government was discussing the matter yet again with the National Farmers' Union to see what further assistance could be offered.

"There is no question but that this Government's record is extremely good in this area."

# Government policy 'good for jobs'

## BUDGET

The Budget would help to sustain the momentum of the very welcome downward trend in unemployment illustrated by today's figures showing the seventh successive month of reductions in the number of jobless, Mr Kenneth Clarke, Paymaster General and Minister for Employment, said when opening the resumed debate on the Chancellor's speech.

It had undoubtedly been a Budget for jobs and the latest figures showed that the Government's economic policies were continuing to produce more jobs. This month's reduction of 44,000 in the seasonally adjusted number of unemployed was the largest fall for any month since records began.

There had now been falls for seven months in a row and, since July 1986, unemployment had gone down by 150,000. That was the best result since 1973.

Unemployment in Britain was now falling faster than in any other industrialized country.

Unemployment was falling all over the country and all the regions had shared in the latest drop, with Wales in the lead. The number of those people out of work for more than a year was also coming down steadily, as was youth unemployment.

There was little doubt that the monthly reduction in unemployment, now averaging about 20,000, would continue.

The growth in Britain's economy this year had been sufficient to finance higher public spending, a reduction in personal taxation and a reduction in public borrowing. The combination of those three emphasized the Government's commitment to maintain steady growth and low inflation.

The lower interest rates that were following in the wake of the Budget would help companies to compete and would also encourage more investment and more jobs.

Reductions in personal taxation were the key elements in the Government's strategy. One of the reasons the Chancellor chose to cut taxes was because tax cuts helped to create jobs.

They improved incentives and made it easier to keep pay increases in line with performance.

That helped to reduce unit labour costs and increase competitiveness and that was the real road to real jobs because more competitive firms could export more and supply more for the home market.

Tax cuts also gave people a real increase in their standard of living. The Opposition wanted standards of living improved through wage increases rather than through tax cuts because it believed people would be grateful to the trade unions for wage

increases whereas they were grateful to the Government for tax cuts.

But pay increases put up industrial costs and could cost jobs while tax cuts cost industry nothing. The Chancellor had succeeded in missing the sun-dappled living of 25 million taxpayers, at no cost to industry or employers.

Throughout the Conservative period of office, the benefits of tax reductions had been spread right across the field.

By reducing the level at which people started to pay tax, the Government had reduced the number of taxpayers by one and a half million.

Package put forward by the Opposition parties were based on the notion that the Chancellor handed over a large sum of money for public spending which was then distributed to favoured groups in a way that created jobs.

Increasing the spending of local authorities would in the short term create local authority jobs but it would also very short-lived increase in employment.

The artificial creation of such jobs meant either raising taxes or increasing interest rates, both of which the Opposition parties were likely to do.

The continued steady growth in the economy would mean that more money was available to spend on public services, such as health and education.

This Government had only increased spending in line with the ability of a growing economy to afford it.

"Our first priority must be dictated by the need to improve the level of services to the public. We are not concentrating on spending money in order to produce overblown levels of manning."

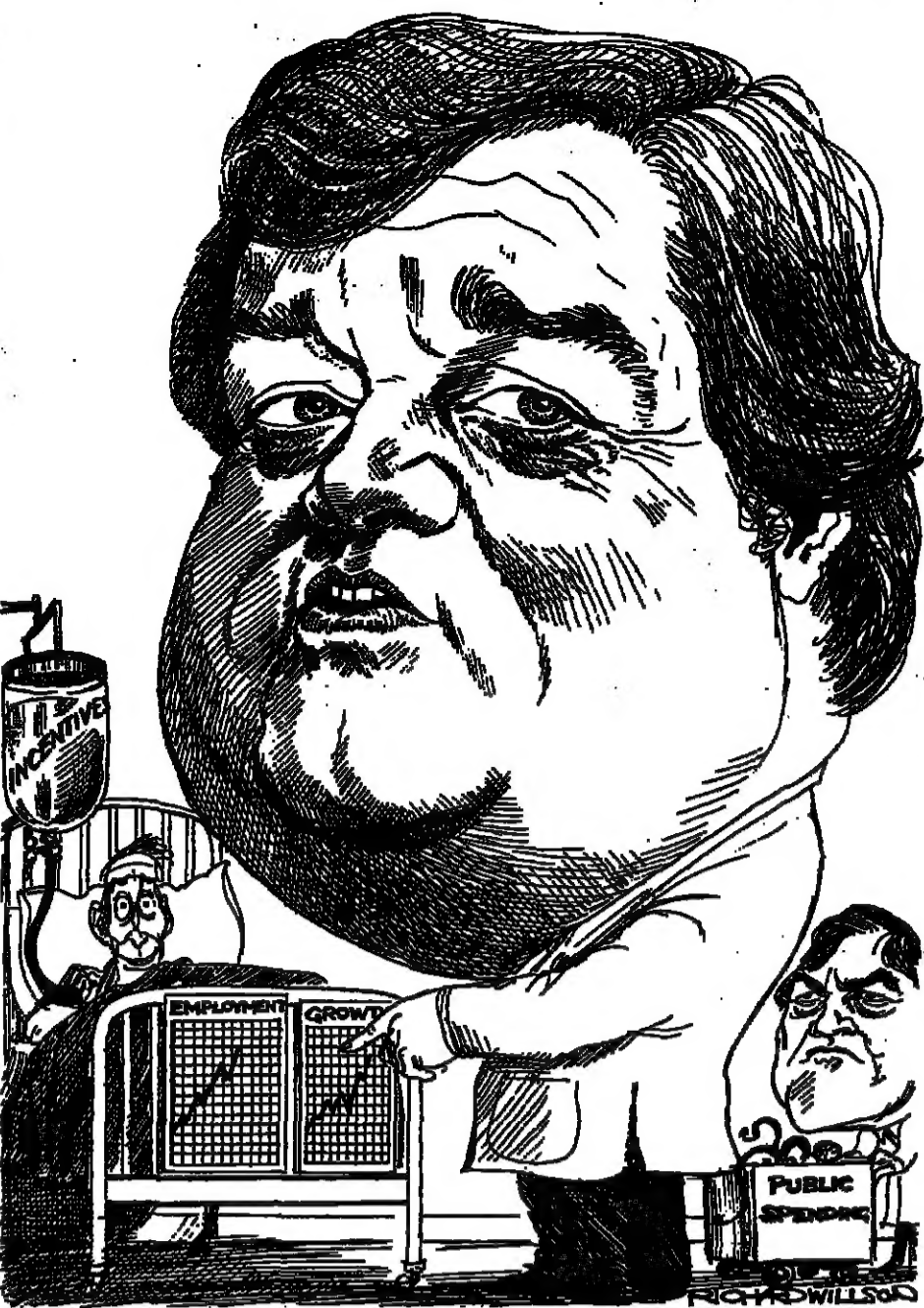
The astonishing thing was that nobody was claiming that the Chancellor could not afford the higher public spending, lower personal taxes and reduced public sector borrowing. Such was the growth of the economy.

The jobs strategy was to tackle the real needs of the economy, the need for skilled and well-trained people. The Budget and the expansion of the employment programme strengthened that strategy.

In the coming year there would be about a million people in training with employers, supported by the Government. The figure had been only 250,000 when Labour left office in 1979.

The Opposition was not content to allow employers to take the least because that would ensure training for skills that really existed in the market place.

The Opposition seemed to want to tax industry heavily to fund the Government's much stronger guiding hand in the nature of the training given. Mr John Prescott, chief Opposition



Mr Kenneth Clarke: Unemployment falling faster than in any other industrialized country.

spokesman on employment, had announced a training levy of at least 1 per cent of turnover on all firms. This morning's Labour document had toned down the levy and there was no specific funding figure. Labour wanted to step in with a huge amount of taxation of all companies to support training, however.

Mr Prescott intervened: "We have never said the proposal would be for 1 per cent of turnover. I have said the figures were aiming for lay in the range of 1 per cent and that a combination of levies, contributions and grants would be the

way we would finance a much more extended programme, precisely what is in the programme today."

Mr Clarke said that he recalled that Mr Prescott had mentioned at least a 1 per cent levy on all companies. "I have a feeling he has lost that particular struggle."

The Shadow Chancellor (Mr Roy Hattersley) had an appalling record on good news about jobs and did not try to find out what schemes were all about. "He continually demonstrates deep ignorance of the actual nature of the help we give to unemployed people."

On the Today programme yesterday Mr Hattersley had said that young people in his constituency were told that they only got unemployment pay if they went to Jobclubs "and when they turn up to Jobclubs they're required to play games under the supervision of nursery school teachers. Thus they are removed from the unemployment register, thus the figure goes down. I think humiliating them in that way is disgraceful. It has absolutely nothing to do with improving the economy."

Mr Clarke said that that statement had nothing to do with the truth. "That statement

is totally and ridiculously wrong in each and every feature. Jobclubs were not at all what Mr Hattersley had described. They were attended by long-term unemployed people brought together to help in the search for jobs, with free postage, free telephones and professional support. This was in the interests of getting jobs.

This Government had achieved three central objectives. It had cut taxes, cut the Public Sector Borrowing Requirement, and announced extra spending on essential things such as health, education, the poor and those most in need.

Absolutely nobody denied that economic growth had enabled the Chancellor of the Exchequer to afford all that.

Mr Hattersley had said completely wrong things about Government schemes to help the unemployed. In the shadow Chancellor's own constituency (Birmingham, Sparkbrook) the overwhelming majority who attended the area Jobclub found work or went into training.

After the next election, Mr Hattersley could be facing a prolonged period of unemployment. He would be better employed now nursing his constituency, to avoid de-selection.

Mr Hattersley intervened to say that there was 51 per cent male unemployment in his constituency. How many people, what numbers, had been helped by the Jobclub?

Mr Clarke said that he did not doubt that Mr Hattersley's constituents would benefit from the continuing fall in unemployment in the West Midlands.

"My message therefore is that only sustained growth in the economy, with low inflation, increased competitiveness and increased productivity, can achieve the objectives the Chancellor set in his Budget, simultaneously. Only these policies can sustain and accelerate the downward trend in unemployment."

Mr John Prescott, chief Opposition spokesman on employment, said it was generally agreed that a lot more jobs could be created from public expenditure, than from tax cuts, though there might be disagreement about the kind of jobs created.

Even the Prime Minister accepted that, when she said that £4,000 million of public expenditure had created jobs in health, education and the services.

Looking at the performance of our European competitors it was clear their public expenditure had been more effectively deployed and they had been able to keep a far higher level of employment than had the United Kingdom.

"We therefore have evidence to make a considered judgement about the role of public expenditure."

# Plea for all-out effort to aid city

The following report of a Commons adjournment debate on Wednesday night appeared in later editions of this newspaper yesterday.

The Government is to meet representatives of Liverpool City Council on March 24 to discuss the city's financial problems, Mr Christopher Chope, Under-Secretary of State for the Environment, said during the debate.

"The city council should not expect exceptional treatment, but there may well be scope for increasing Liverpool's share of the urban aid resources programme as a result of having a more co-operative council."

While the Government was ready to talk, he was not persuaded of the benefits of pumping in even more taxpayers' money. The problem was the revenue only by a sensible local government.

Mr David Alton (Liverpool, Mersley Hill, L), who raised the issue, pleaded for all-party co-operation in solving the city's problems. This was not the time to indulge in confrontational politics.

The city's corporate debt of £800 million, although large, was not as big a problem as was due in part to industrial decline as well as a shrinking population. He suggested an independent survey of the city's finances to find means of improving efficiency and savings. The Government could also consider rescheduling all loans.

There was strong resentment about the fact that diplomats avoided criminal charges in Britain that others rightly faced. Dame Jill Knight (Birmingham, Edgbaston, C) said during Prime Minister's questions. But Mrs Thatcher resisted her demands for a change in the international conventions.

Dame Jill Knight asked: Will she consider initiating proposals at the United Nations for the revision of the Vienna Convention so that those who claim immunity may not be prosecuted when they break the law of our land (Conservative cheers)?

Mrs Thatcher: "I know the concern which lies behind that question, but it is wrong to do such proposals would not win the support of other governments."

There have been substantial financial benefits resulting from the abolition of the Greater London Council and the six metropolitan county councils, Mr Christopher Chope, Under-Secretary of State for the Environment, said in a written reply. He said that £431 million in cash entitlements and £754 million in spending power would go back to the local boroughs and the metropolitan district councils.

The savings resulted from the residuary bodies reducing, and in some cases eliminating altogether, the amount of money they needed to ask rating authorities to pay as a levy. They also came from money inherited from the abolished authorities and receipts generated by the residuary bodies themselves from sales of surplus property and loan repayments.

Mr Wallenberg, a Swedish diplomat who saved thousands of European Jews from the Germans, was arrested by the Russians after the Second World War.

Lady Robson, who was born in Sweden, said that the opportunities had never been greater to find the true answer about the disappearance of Mr Wallenberg, who was one of the greatest humanitarians of this century.

The Government hoped the new openness in the Soviet Union under Mr Mikhail Gorbachev's leadership would lead to a fuller explanation of the fate of Mr Raul Wallenberg, the lost hero, Baroness Hooper, for the Government, said during question time.

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# Security call is rejected

There were loud Labour protests when Mrs Thatcher again rejected a call for an inquiry into security events of the 1970s.

Dr David Owen, leader of the SDP, had said that two former Home Secretaries believed that the fresh allegations about a deliberate campaign at that time to destabilize an elected Government needed investigation.

"One of them has already made clear that when the investigation took place in 1977, it focused on electronic surveillance in No 10 Downing Street. And in view of the Cabinet Secretary's possible role at that time, would it not be appropriate for her to consult the former Prime Minister?"

Mrs Thatcher: The then Prime Minister's (Mr James Callaghan's) statement in 1977 shows that he had made detailed inquiries into allegations.

Labour MPs: Untrue. Mrs Thatcher: Lord Wilson of Rievaulx (formerly Mr Harold Wilson) associated himself totally with that statement.

# Kinnock and Thatcher dispute police recruitment decision

It was inaccurate of the Leader of the Opposition to suggest that police manpower levels were not to be increased until there was concrete evidence about police performance, the Prime Minister said during Commons questions.

Mr Neil Kinnock had described the idea of recruiting police officers by the results of performance as very foolish.

Would Mrs Thatcher direct the Home Office to establish the extra police and administrative personnel that to combat the 50 per cent rise in crime announced earlier in the week?

Mrs Thatcher said the Home Secretary (Mr Douglas Hurd) had already announced increases in establishment for police forces, not only in London but all over the country.

These had not necessarily reached their establishment because the police had to select people who could be properly trained.

Mr Kinnock demanded to know if Mrs Thatcher agreed with the

## LAW AND ORDER

Metropolitan Police Commissioner, Sir Kenneth Newman, said that one of the main causes for the rise in serious crime in recent years had been unemployment.

Mrs Thatcher said that Mr Kinnock must have run out of questions. She reminded MPs that she had answered that question at Tuesday's debate and Mr Kinnock had been present. She would repeat what she had said then.

It was a sad fact that the peak age of offenders was 15 years - that was below school-leaving age. So it could have little to do with unemployment.

Academic research suggested that there was no significant association between increases in recorded crime and recorded unemployment.

Unemployment in the 1930s had been a much higher percentage of the working population than it was now. If what Mr Kinnock was saying was correct,

crime in the 1930s would have been higher than it was now, whereas it had been lower.

Mr Kinnock retorted that if Mrs Thatcher thought unemployment affected only the unemployed, she was wrong. He said that he had thought (Labour cheers and Conservative protests).

There was evidence from academic research that there were views from practising police officers and there was common sense.

Did the Prime Minister agree with Sir Kenneth Newman and other working policemen, or not? Mrs Thatcher said that if that was correct, countries with very low unemployment would have lower crime. But that was not the case.

Mr Alfred Dake (Battersea, Lab): During the 15 minutes she is answering questions, a total of 110 crimes will have been committed in this country and it is simply no good the Prime Minister week after week saying: "Don't blame me, I'm only the Prime Minister."

The people of Britain are

# Hopes for answer on Wallenberg

## HOUSE OF LORDS

The Government hoped the new openness in the Soviet Union under Mr Mikhail Gorbachev's leadership would lead to a fuller explanation of the fate of Mr Raul Wallenberg, the lost hero, Baroness Hooper, for the Government, said during question time.

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# Labour has 'no trust for its own'

The Labour Party could not trust its own constituents, their own people, to spend their own earnings in their own way, the Prime Minister said to loud Conservative cheers and Labour protests, during her first Commons question time exchanges since the Budget.

She agreed with Mr Kenneth Clarke (Lincoln, C) that the Budget reduced the average family's tax burden by £3 a week.

She added that Labour was pledged to claw that back - and to raise taxation higher still - to pay for their huge spending plans (renewed Labour protests and Conservative cheers).

The Budget had been extremely good... highly responsible and well balanced.

It had rightly given a reduction in the standard rate of income tax for the 18 million or so people on average or below average male earnings.

Mr Conal Gregory (York, C): Will the Prime Minister accept the thanks of the nation and of the constituents of York in particular on the success of the Budget?

He was loudly interrupted by Labour MPs when he went on to make a comparison with the cost of Labour plans, which he said would cost £34 billion and would result in penal rates of basic tax.

Mrs Thatcher: I agree. The Labour Party programme means high borrowing, high taxation and bankruptcy, in very short order.

## Free food for poor

# EEC 'made charities rule'

Faced with complaints from both sides of the House about the financial burden imposed on charities by their distribution of surplus food to the needy, Mr Michael Jopling, Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, pointed out that the decision to use charities to give the food out came not from the Government but from the EEC Commission in Brussels.

The charities had known the rules from the outset and entered into the scheme enthusiastically, he said during Commons questions.

Mr Jopling said the most recent figures of authorized releases from intervention stores represented almost 30 million cwt of butter and almost 8 million portions of beef.

Charitable organizations were buying milk and butter from commercial sources, and donating for sale to 110,000 cwt of milk and 840 tonnes of cheese had so far been received by the Intervention Board for Agricultural Produce.

Mr Derek Spencer (Leicester South, C) said the minister should condemn the carrying criticisms coming from some quarters that the charities had not been distributing the food quickly enough. That was an insult to the splendid work of thousands of voluntary workers who had distributed so much food to so many needy pensioners.

Mr Jopling agreed and thought that the House should congratulate the charitable organizations that had co-operated in this scheme. There had been an estimate for the EEC as a whole of about £25 million at the outset and they were now

expecting the outcome to be that the scheme would cost about £35 million in the UK.

Mr Christopher Smith (Isington South and Finsbury, Lab) asked why this method of distribution had been chosen. There were many pensioners' groups, organizations and charities in his constituency who had not been able to get any of this food. Why had such chaos attended this scheme?

Mr Jopling said that it was absurd to talk of chaos. The charities had co-operated extremely well together and if Mr Smith had any charities in mind that would be interested in joining the scheme he should direct them to some of those charities that had been taking the lead.

Mr Robert Key (Salisbury, C) said the scheme was welcome.

The main business in the House of Commons next week will be: Monday: Conclusion of the debate on the Budget.

Tuesday: Consolidated Fund Bill, all stages (MPs will have the opportunity to raise a variety of subjects).

Wednesday: Motions on English and Welsh rate-support grant orders.

Thursday: Immigration (Carriers' Liability) Bill and Broadcasting Bill, remaining stages.

Friday: Private members' Bills: Register of Sectors (Scotland) Bill, Agricultural Training Board Bill, Aids (Control) Bill, and Crossbows Bill, remaining stages.

The main business in the House of Lords will be:

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Tuesday: Petroleum Bill, committee. Parliamentary and Health Service Commissioners Bill, second reading. Debate on availability of merchant ships in the event of war.

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# New vaccines seen as road to saving millions of lives

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

A "volcanic eruption" of new vaccines will make antibiotics almost obsolete by the end of this century, a World Health Organization conference was told in Geneva yesterday.

And better use of existing vaccines could save up to five million lives a year, WHO experts said.

The lives of 9,000 infants a day could be saved in developing countries with an efficient immunization programme against diseases such as measles, polio and tetanus, and it was "morally indefensible" that governments and health authorities were not doing more to reduce the death tolls.

Research into new vaccines could have a huge impact on

malaria and leprosy, and lead to long-term contraceptive vaccines, and even a vaccine against tooth decay.

However, a vaccine against Aids was probably up to 10 years away from being in general use and faced enormous problems in its development, one expert said.

The WHO immunization project is aimed at Africa, China, India and Indonesia. Sir Gustav Nossal, a researcher from Melbourne, Australia, said: "We have to change attitudes so that society no longer finds it acceptable for over three million children a year to suffer and die from vaccine-preventable diseases."

Dr Kenneth Warren, director of health sciences at the

Rockefeller Foundation, said: "Vaccines can render antibiotics, the miracle drug of the latter half of the twentieth century, virtually obsolete by the year 2000. It is now inevitable that there will be a volcanic eruption of vaccines within the next 15 years."

Dr Ralph Henderson, director of the WHO expanded programme on immunization, said: "Such projects are now preventing close to a million deaths a year from measles, whooping cough and tetanus. But millions of children continue to die needlessly each year from diseases we can prevent through the simple act of immunization."

"We have committed ourselves to protecting all the world's children by the end of this decade."

The immunization project should be pushed ahead in spite of some concern in medical circles that it might cause an increase in Aids through the use of vaccination needles that were not always properly sterilized.

Halting these efforts because of fears of Aids would increase deaths among children while doing little to stop transmission of the Aids virus, WHO said in a statement.

Experts had considered that even people infected with the virus should receive vaccines for other diseases, in spite of some risk that they could trigger Aids conditions.

Dr Henderson said: "There is legitimate concern about providing vaccines, particularly live vaccines, to people whose immune systems have been compromised by Aids."

He said that in the United States this concern had led to a recommendation that doctors should not give polio or measles vaccines to people suffering from Aids.

## Moderate drinking 'no protection for heart'

By Robert Matthews

Suggestions that drinking moderate amounts of alcohol reduces the risk of heart disease have been challenged by the British Heart Foundation.

Although a study showed that people drinking a pint of beer a day were less susceptible to heart attacks than teetotalers, such drinkers tended to be slim, middle-class men who did not smoke.

Research has also shown that teetotalers tend to be former drinkers who, like former smokers, have a permanently increased risk of ill-health in later life.

A six-year study of more than 7,700 men, carried out by a team under Professor Gerald Shaper at the Royal Free Hospital in London, indicates why low-level drinkers are less at risk.

"They have everything going for them in terms of social class, smoking and

weight", Professor Shaper said.

The team found no support for the idea that the lower rate of heart attacks was because drinking raised the level of a certain type of cholesterol thought to provide protection. Heavier drinkers also had higher levels of certain enzymes in their liver, indicative of liver damage.

The research appears to confirm the long-held belief that moderate drinkers are healthier than teetotalers - but only if the effects of previous smoking and drinking are ignored.

Professor Shaper said: "Our data shows that those drinking a pint of beer or a couple of glasses of wine a day do not come to much harm."

"However, there is more than enough encouragement to drink without the suggestion that regular drinking has health-promoting attributes."

## Karpov accepts draw

The ninth game of the world chess eliminator in Linares, Spain, has been drawn after a total of 75 moves. Anatoly Karpov, the former world champion, adjourned after 40 moves on Tuesday with an extra pawn. But the reduced material left indicated that Andrei Sokolov's chances of reaching a draw were increased dramatically (Raymond Keene writes).

In the second session, played on Wednesday, Karpov exhausted all possibilities in his search for victory. Karpov leads the match 5½-3½. Last night's moves:

White Sokolov	Black Karpov
1 e4	1...e5
2 Nf3	2...Nf6
3 Bc4	3...Bc5
4 d3	4...d6
5 c3	5...Nbd7
6 Bg5	6...h6
7 h4	7...g6
8 Bxf6	8...gxf6
9 Qd2	9...Qd7
10 0-0-0	10...0-0
11 Bb3	11...Bb7
12 Bxd6	12...Qxd6
13 Nf4	13...Nf6
14 Nc3	14...Nc6
15 Bg5	15...h6
16 Bxf6	16...gxf6
17 Bg5	17...h6
18 Bxf6	18...gxf6
19 Bg5	19...h6
20 Bxf6	20...gxf6
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31 Bg5	31...h6
32 Bxf6	32...gxf6
33 Bg5	33...h6
34 Bxf6	34...gxf6
35 Bg5	35...h6
36 Bxf6	36...gxf6
37 Bg5	37...h6
38 Bxf6	38...gxf6
39 Bg5	39...h6
40 Bxf6	40...gxf6

## Soldiers in crash named

Two British soldiers who were killed in a Lynx helicopter crash in West Germany on Wednesday were named yesterday. They were Sergeant Michael Tomlin, aged 31, of Cleator Moor, Cumbria, married, with two children, and Corporal Peter Burnett, aged 30, of Sheffield, also married.

## Piggott faces new tax fraud charges

The former champion jockey, Lester Piggott, appeared in court yesterday to face 12 charges brought by the Inland Revenue and the VAT authorities.

Magistrates at Newmarket, Suffolk, were told that the Inland Revenue charges related to alleged undisclosed income of more than £3.75 million.

The Inland Revenue had added 10 charges since Mr Piggott appeared before the Newmarket bench last December. The offences are alleged to date from 1973.

Yesterday he also faced the first time a summons from Customs and Excise alleging that jointly he and his company, L.K. Piggott Ltd, Cranbrook Road, Ilford, Essex, failed to make sufficient VAT payments on undeclared income from retaining fees, percentage prize money, shares in race-winning colts and bloodstock transactions.

Mr Piggott faced two

charges of making false tax statements, six of delivering accounts which omitted income received and three of delivering tax returns which omitted income.

He was remanded until May 7 on reduced bail of £250,000 with a surety of £125,000 from the racehorse trainer, Henry Cecil.

Mr Piggott, aged 51, of Hamilton Road, Newmarket, was represented by his London solicitor, Mr Peter Pimm. Reporting restrictions were not lifted.

Under his bail terms, Mr Piggott will retain his passport. A previous restriction requiring him to report to a police station was dropped but he is required to live at his Newmarket address.

The case is expected to go to crown court and committal papers have been served on Mr Piggott by the Inland Revenue and Customs and Excise, which are prosecuting jointly.

## Food prices

## Shoppers facing cheap or friendly choice

In spite of the dominance of the big supermarket chains many people still like to buy their meat from the traditional local butcher.

It is easier to specify exactly what is wanted at the friendly corner shop, and the quality may be higher. However, it is generally more expensive.

For example, the average national price for topside and silverside of beef this week is £2.15 a lb whereas Sainsbury offers it at £1.74 and Tesco at £1.78.

Presto has boneless shoulder of New Zealand lamb at £1.18 a lb and chops at £1.25. Sainsbury has reduced English lamb prices to the same level as New Zealand - £1.48

a lb for whole leg for example - and for large families with freezers it is hard to beat whole New Zealand lamb in Dewhurst for 79p a lb.

Frozen chickens at Bejam are down to a near record low at 45p a lb and Marks & Spencer has taken 10 pence off pecks of Danish bacon.

Pork in butchers' shops or supermarkets is invariably a good buy at about £1.05 a lb for leg and £1.22 for boneless shoulder.

Fish quality is generally good and some prices are down. In London and the South-east large cod fillets are down by 4 pence to about £2 a lb, whiting £1.35, plaice £2.15 and coley £1.05.



Sabah (left) and Serhan Halil greeting their mother, Mrs Ayse Halil, who returned to Britain yesterday after having her deportation order reversed (Photograph: Tim Bishop).

## Deported mother is back with family

Years of uncertainty and separation ended yesterday when Mrs Ayse Halil, twice deported from Britain, was reunited with her family.

The Turkish-Cypriot mother of three, was forced to leave Britain because of a ruling by the Home Office, in January 1985, leaving behind her sons Sabah, now aged 14, and Serhan, now aged nine. Mrs Halil, aged 34, flew back to Britain, with her daughter, yesterday after the Home Office's immigration appeals adjudicator reversed the original deportation decision.

The problem dates back to 1971, when she followed her parents and brother to Britain with her husband. Her family held British passports, but she did not and was given permission to stay only until 1976, when a deportation order was served. Legal arguments kept them here until 1981, by which time the two boys had been born and become British citizens.

In 1981, Mrs Halil and her husband gave up the battle and left for Cyprus. But when the marriage broke down she came back to her parents for help in 1983.

## Future of BBC

## TV licence fee may be paid quarterly

By Jonathan Miller

Media Correspondent

The BBC is developing a system which will allow viewers to pay television licence fees by direct quarterly debits from their bank accounts instead of as an annual lump sum.

The corporation believes the new method will make the licence fee more acceptable to the public and will cost the BBC less to collect than the £56 million charged annually by the Post Office.

The system is to be introduced after the passage of a comprehensive broadcasting Bill, expected in 1988, allowing the BBC to take responsibility for the collection of licence fees.

It would allow the Post Office to continue operating its fleet of detection vans to catch licence evaders.

Mr Michael Checkland, the director-general of the BBC, said yesterday: "One of the

difficulties of the licence fee has always been that it has been a single sum; at the moment, £54 per year. So we will be keen to encourage as many people as we can to modern banking methods, and to pay by direct debit."

Mr Checkland yesterday reaffirmed his policy of opening up the processes of the BBC to public examination. "We need to be more open, and if we're more open there's not much point in having the leaks and rumours which occupy far too much of our managerial time. Perhaps we should get away from having the newspapers set the agenda for our day's work."

He then put into practice this new philosophy of openness by providing correspondents with a detailed summary of the corporation's plans and financial objectives.

The corporation is to scrap its historically entrenched "referral" system of management under which managers are encouraged to continually "refer upwards" decisions on all matters of controversy.

"We need to concentrate less on control, but more on responsibility and accountability."

The Government's decision to relate the licence fee to the retail price index means the corporation must identify £30 million in cost cuts to meet a shortfall between income and revenue expected in 1991. "Now, this isn't crippling, it's broadly the same as achieving a 1 per cent per annum improvement in productivity."

Mr Checkland said reductions in staff would be achieved by wastage and retirement, not by imposing redundancies.

The BBC is prepared to commit £20 million a year to independent productions, increasing its output of commissioned programmes from just under 100 hours a year to about 600 hours by 1990.

The future of BBC radio services lies with VHF broadcasting. The governors have approved a plan to provide a new nationwide network to allow Radio One to be available everywhere on VHF. Radio Four is to be extended to a 24-hour operation. There will be a review of the policy on local radio stations.

BBC Enterprises, the corporation's commercial arm, has been told to double its sales to £200 million by 1991 with £25 million in profits.

The move by BBC headquarters staff to White City will result in savings of £4.5 million a year.

The BBC still hopes to transmit the Secret Society series but "there are genuine legal problems which we simply have to resolve".

## Sale room Collector gets pick of enamels

By Geraldine Norman

Sale Room Correspondent

A single foreign collector secured the pick of the Mullens collection of English enamels when it was offered for sale by Christie's on Wednesday afternoon.

When he wanted a piece he relentlessly outbid the room, ending up paying the top 10 prices of the sale and spending £137,170 out of a sale total of £254,518.

The enamel plaques, boxes and other little objects were made in Birmingham and Battersea in the eighteenth century, decorated with portraits, flowers, landscapes and other decorative subjects on a white ground. The collection, begun in 1953, was formed by Sir William Mullens, one-time government broker, and his wife, now his widow - who sent it for sale.

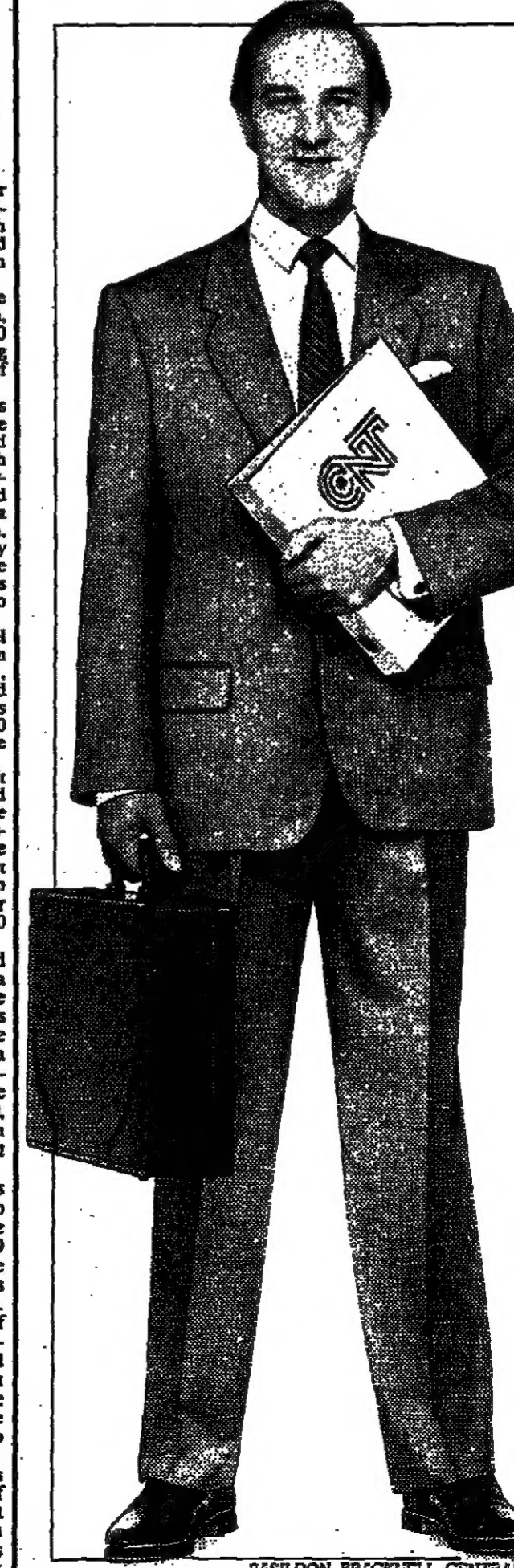
A large Birmingham enamel casket painted with an Italian Comedy scene after Watteau, as well as flowers, insects and birds went to the anonymous foreign collector at £27,500 (estimate £5,000-£8,000), the top price of the day.

A pair of oval portrait plaques of George III and Queen Charlotte went to the same buyer at £16,500 (estimate £4,000-£6,000) while birds were uniformly sought after, with a Birmingham plaque depicting a kingfisher and two ducks at £7,700 (estimate £1,000-£2,000).

At Sotheby's fine jewels and jewels for the collector - a euphemism used to describe pieces where the setting counts as much as the stones - made exceptionally strong prices, a forecast perhaps of the Windsor sale next month. There was a total of £1,193,159, some 20 per cent over the high estimate, with 3 per cent unsold.

Chunky Cartier settings were definitely "in" with a top price of £82,500 (estimate £30,000-£70,000) for a 1939 necklace designed as a flexible weave of collet diamonds inset with seven larger stones. Another Cartier necklace of fairground dazzle with emeralds, rubies, sapphires and diamonds turned into a swathe of flowers and foliage made £68,200 (estimate £30,000-£40,000) to £1. Phillips.

Further down the scale was a ruby and diamond spray of chrysanthemums of about 1950, which would have been broken up to rescue the stones only a few years ago, selling at £6,600 (£2,500-£3,500).



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## Protest to board reported

## Senior IMF counsellor resigns over political pressure by big donors

From Bailey Morris, Washington

A senior official of the International Monetary Fund was reported yesterday to have resigned in protest at the increasing political use made of the organization by the United States.

Mr David Finch, one of the fund's four senior operating officers who holds the rank of counsellor, made his protest in a "verbal presentation" to the board. Veteran IMF officials said it was an unprecedented act by a senior official.

He cited specifically American interference in loans to Egypt and Zaire which ran counter to the organization's long-standing tradition of ensuring equal treatment to all nations.

The resignation has stunned and saddened senior members of the IMF's professional staff, who said that Mr Finch, an Australian who has been with the Fund for 37 years, was held in high regard.

"He is one of the wisest men here," one veteran official said.

But IMF spokesmen have declined to confirm or deny the resignation, saying that they could not comment on

matters before the board. An aide in Mr Finch's office said yesterday that he had left town for several days but that he had been in Washington on Wednesday when he appeared before the board.

The resignation is the most dramatic example of growing unrest among the IMF's highly-trained professionals, who take pride in their reputations as international bureaucrats dealing objectively with nations' problems.

Over the past year there has been internal criticism over the "heavy-handed approach" dictated by the United States and other large donors, which was undermining the credibility of IMF officials in their negotiations with debtor nations, sources said.

"We must be seen as completely objective, applying standards equally to nations, or our economic restructuring programmes will lose respect," one official said.

The United States has also come under strong criticism from Latin American nations, which claim that a US attempt to gain veto power over loans made by the Inter-American

Development Bank represented the "colonialist attitudes" of the 1950s.

A vote on the proposal is scheduled for this weekend and is likely to provoke a confrontation at the bank's annual meeting in Miami.

IMF sources said that the staff had raised strong objections to the loan programmes negotiated with Egypt and Zaire but had been overruled, largely because of pressure applied by the US delegation led by Mr Richard Erb, a former US Treasury official.

As counsellor, Mr Finch directed one of the institution's central departments, the Exchange and Trade Relations Department, which plays a key role in developing the IMF's debt strategy and in its dealings with commercial banks.

A member of the department accompanies every IMF mission to nations seeking access to fund resources.

Mr Finch had been due to retire next year, according to one IMF official, who added that he felt that the resignation should not be blown out of proportion.



Crew members, top right, of the Danish container vessel Wedellsborg examining damage caused when she was in collision with a Taiwanese tanker and a Japanese car carrier off Antwerp yesterday. There were no serious injuries.

## Jewish protester attacked by KGB

From Christopher Walker, Moscow

A Jewish demonstrator was attacked and Western reporters jostled and abused in the centre of Moscow yesterday, as a KGB agent and Soviet women screaming anti-Semitic slogans broke up other non-violent protest against the Kremlin's refusal to grant emigration rights.

The incident was described by Western diplomats later as another example of the strict limits which are still being imposed on Mr Gorbachev's stated policy of *glasnost* (openness).

The two-man demonstration was followed by a picket mounted by other refuseniks outside the Foreign Ministry's permanent press centre.

I was one of the reporters elbowed violently aside as Mr Eliazar Yusefovich, aged 37, an engineer who has been trying for seven years to leave for Israel, attempted to display a white banner supporting his demand.

Within seconds, Mr Yusefovich was surrounded by men who had been waiting nearby and a notice tied to his neck was ripped off. Before being attacked for a second time, Mr Yusefovich managed to unveil a second banner he had concealed under his anorak. He was detained briefly.

## WORLD SUMMARY

## 'Ivan' trial told of height difference

Jerusalem — Mr John Demjanjuk is 2 in taller than the man described on the 1942 SS identity card which has been produced at the war crimes trial here, according to evidence yesterday from an Israeli prison doctor (Ian Murray writes).

Dr Yacov Zigelbaum said he had examined Mr Demjanjuk and found him to be 1.8 metres tall, which is 5 cm (2 in) more than recorded on the card, produced by the prosecution as part of the evidence that Mr Demjanjuk was "Ivan the Terrible", the executioner at the Treblinka death camp. Asked if it were possible for people to grow taller with age, he said emphatically: "No."

Dr Zigelbaum said he also found a scar on the prisoner's back, which he was told was from a 1941 war wound. The scar corresponds to one described on the card, which is under forensic test to try to prove whether it is genuine.

## Brandt's risky choice

Bonn — Herr Willy Brandt, aged 73, chairman of the West German Social Democratic Party (SPD), is risking his post because of an attractive, young Greek journalist, according to the popular press here (John England writes).

He has caused a row within the SPD by pushing through the nomination of Frau Margarita Mathiopoulos, right, aged 31, as the party's first press spokeswoman.

Her appointment, however, must be approved by the party's 42-member national executive next Monday.

Opponents say they are not against her appointment on grounds of her sex or because she is not German. Most object because she is not a card-carrying member of the SPD.

## Andreotti stalemate

Rome — An early general election here seems increasingly likely, as efforts to form a new government have all failed (Renter reports).

The Socialists of the former Prime Minister, Signor Bettino Craxi, have rejected a plan by the Prime Minister-designate, Signor Giulio Andreotti, a Christian Democrat.

They say they support continued efforts by Signor Andreotti, but the Christian Democrats reject the idea of long-drawn out negotiations.

Italian boom, pages 28-31

## Bomb in building

Paris — French police yesterday announced the discovery of 24 lb of explosives hidden in a false ceiling in the city's Tour Montparnasse (Diana Geddes writes).

The explosives, which were found in lavatories after a tip-off, are believed to have been left there by Max Frérot, the only leading member of the terrorist group, Action Directe, known to be still at large. Police believe he had intended to attach a detonator to the explosives but had been foiled by tighter security.

## EEC appeal on arms

Brussels — A powerful appeal was made to EEC leaders yesterday by M Jacques Delors, President of the Commission, not to let vital disarmament issues be settled "above our heads" (Richard Owen writes).

He called for an EEC summit meeting on East-West relations to ensure that European interests were upheld in any Western response to the policies of Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, the Soviet leader.

He said after meeting Mr Wilfried Martens, the Belgian Prime Minister, that EEC nations faced an unprecedented challenge in the security and defence field because of swiftly moving disarmament initiatives as the thirtieth anniversary of the Treaty of Rome approached. Spectrum, page 10.

## War cost up £2bn

Iran's budget for the new fiscal year starting on Saturday forecasts revenue of \$50.3 billion (£30 billion), a 15 per cent increase on this year (Renter reports).

Quoting figures supplied by the Tehran Parliament budget and planning committee, the Iran news agency said expenditure for the war with Iraq was up by \$2.25 billion, but gave no overall figure. Oil revenue has been set at \$7.3 billion, with an average 1.5 million barrels a day export.

## Danger at dinner

Peking (Renter) — Two New Zealand tourists described yesterday how they were hurt when a grenade carried by a Chinese woman, who had been asked by her soldier husband for a divorce, exploded in a restaurant.

Mr Jonathan Ogilvy and his wife, Mrs Trade Taylor, were among 21 people injured in Xian. They were visited in hospital by New Zealand's Deputy Prime Minister, Mr Geoffrey Palmer, on a tour of China.

## Mud in the Eye for ministers

From Richard Owen, Brussels

It seems unlikely to overshadow the earlier, more famous Geneva arms talks "walk in the woods", but yesterday's stroll among the Belgian conifers by the EEC environment ministers has already acquired legendary status.

The European Year of the Environment, known as Eye for short, was officially launched here with a five-year action programme to enforce anti-pollution measures throughout the EEC and protect wildlife and the environment.

But Mrs Miel Smet, the Belgian Environment Minister, decided that the ministers should get away from the commission bureaucracy and commune directly with the forces of the countryside.

Off went the ministerial party to the spectacular snow-bound Forêt de Soignes just outside Brussels. In a semi-deep in the arboretum, Belgian forest rangers dispensed hot coffee while an embarrassed Mrs Smet explained that a consignment of boots which were to have protected the ministerial feet against the slush and snow of the woodland paths had not turned up.

Outside, the ministers trudged gamely through the wood, admiring the spruces and larches, and Mrs Smet promised that the Belgian Government would lay on a shoeshine service when they got back to Brussels.

The ministers, evidently invigorated by their short walk, agreed to cut sulphur in gas oils by 1989, and approved plans for competitions to find the cleanest EEC town, beaches and ports.

## Sanctions delayed by Israel

From Ian Murray, Jerusalem

Israel is delaying bringing in real sanctions against South Africa by setting up a special team to work out over two months what to do about the well-publicized good relations between the two countries.

The team was set up by the inner Cabinet after two difficult meetings on Wednesday, during which Mr Ariel Sharon, the Trade and Industry Minister, argued forcefully that Israel should do nothing and ride out the storm.

But most ministers felt that there would be too much of a storm after April 1, when publication of a US congressional report on South African defence suppliers is expected to include a section on Israel.

Relations with the United States have been under severe strain in recent days because of the life sentence handed down last week on Jonathan Pollard, an American Jew, for spying for Israel. There has been concern in the Cabinet that American defence and financial aid might be cut in the light of the report.

The Cabinet announced that pending the special team's recommendations, no more defence contracts would be signed with South Africa, though present contracts would be honoured.

● JOHANNESBURG: A South African journalist, JoAnne Richards, of the Johannesburg Star, has been ordered to reveal the name of a doctor who gave her information for an article on the alleged mistreatment of detainees or appear before a public prosecutor for questioning next Thursday (Michael Hornsby writes).

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## COMMENTARY



Geoffrey Smith

Europe needs to strengthen its own identity within Nato by building up the Western European Union (WEU), according to Sir Geoffrey Howe in an important speech in Brussels this week.

It is not a new theme. As long ago as 1962 President Kennedy was enunciating the doctrine that Nato rested upon two pillars and that the development of the European pillar should be a principal objective of Western policy.

But it is a theme which is heard increasingly from British ministers these days. Mr George Younger was making the same broad points in a speech and paper to the Wehrkunde Conference in Munich at the end of January.

In so far as this is simply an argument for a more active, even a more assertive, European role in Nato, it is uncontroversial, almost self-evident. There are specifically European security concerns which ought not just to be left to American judgement, necessary though American leadership is to Nato. But some of the implications in Sir Geoffrey's and Mr Younger's line of reasoning should not be allowed to pass without question.

There are certainly important advantages in the recent revival of WEU. It provides the most convenient means of bringing France back into the Western military dialogue.

## Useful vehicle to end isolation

This could best be achieved simply by France rejoining the Nato military structure. But that is not practical politics at the present time. So WEU is a useful vehicle for ending French military isolation.

It also offers an opportunity for European defence ministers and officials to exchange views on security issues of particular interest to Europe without being inhibited by the presence of Americans.

There is an even more pressing case for European governments to collaborate on defence procurement. This is the one area in the defence field where it is justifiable for the Europeans to gang up against the Americans. That is because American protectionism in defence procurement has made it impossible to collaborate on an equal basis among all Nato countries, which would be the ideal.

But defence procurement is very much the exception to the general rule that Nato will be weakened if the Europeans give the impression of uniting against the United States. There were sections in his speech where Sir Geoffrey appeared to fall into that trap, anxious though he was to avoid it.

## Wrong way to conduct Alliance

If this means that WEU ministers should settle on a common line before going into Nato meetings with the Americans and others, it would be precisely the wrong way to conduct the Alliance. It would feed American suspicions and fragment Nato's decision-making process.

If preliminary positions were taken in a European caucus it would complicate the discussions in Nato itself, which, as Sir Geoffrey made clear, "must remain the decision-making forum for defence matters". Every WEU minister would hesitate to change his position in response to the subsequent debate for fear of breaking up the common European front. The tendency would be to polarize discussions and magnify disagreements between Europeans and the United States.

Nor would this necessarily be the best way to influence the Americans. This can generally be done most effectively by engaging them in vigorous and positive discussion as policy is being formulated.

European spokesmen are often too tentative at this stage. They assume that it would be pointless to try to change American thinking. So they can be paralysed by an overwhelming modesty.

## McFarlane letters say Saudis 'volunteered millions for Contras'

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

Before attempting suicide last month President Reagan's former National Security Adviser, Mr Robert McFarlane, left letters to his lawyer and three congressmen saying he had failed to disclose that the Saudi Ambassador in Washington had volunteered secret contributions of millions of dollars to the Nicaraguan Contras.

Details of the letters appeared yesterday in *The Washington Post*, which said that congressional investigators into the Iran-Contra affair were now trying to determine whether some of the money and other funds ended up in a secret "slush fund" for covert operations by the CIA and friendly intelligence services, such as those of Saudi Arabia or Israel.

Mr Bandar bin Sultan, the Saudi Ambassador, a close friend of Mr McFarlane, has denied repeatedly that contributions were made to the Contras by himself or by other Saudis. *The Washington Post*, quoting a source close to the Saudis, said Saudi Arabia contributed \$13 million (\$8.1 million) for three US-Saudi covert operations, details of which were top secret.

It added that Mr McFarlane had given sworn testimony that the Saudi Ambassador initiated the contributions to the Contras.

The paper reported that investigators into the Iran-Contra affair have already established independently that eight payments each of \$1 million were made between July 1984 and February 1985

to a Cayman Islands bank account belonging to the Contras. Four large deposits were said to have been made during February and March 1985, taking the total to \$32 million.

The Contras have consistently denied receiving money from the Iran arms sales. A central question being pursued by congressional investigators is where the funds went.

Mr Robert Byrd, the Senate Democratic leader, said yesterday that the full Senate

Mr Casper Weinberger, the US Defence Secretary, criticised Spain for demanding sharp cuts in American forces there, and said Nato should do more to shore up its southern flank. (Heater reports from Istanbul).

"We would be damaging instead Nato to consider removing US military facilities without providing a full substitute for the loss of defence capability..." he said.

plans to vote promptly on a resolution to hold retired Major-General Richard Secord in contempt for having refused to grant access to bank records which may have crucial information on the affair. He has refused to testify without immunity.

Investigators are also looking at the possibility that President Reagan solicited money from King Fahd of Saudi Arabia when the two met at the White House during a state visit on February 11-12, 1985. Fifteen days after they had a private

conversation over breakfast on February 12, a \$5 million deposit was made to the Contras' bank account, according to the newspaper.

Mr Frank Carlucci, the present National Security Adviser, said this week that there had been "no solicitation of Fahd for the Contras by the President".

Mr McFarlane's two-page letter was written just before he took an overdose of Valium. Included with the letter, according to the *Post*, were separate one-page "confidential" letters to three members of Congress in which he reportedly said that he had not made a total disclosure of his knowledge about foreign contributions to the Contras.

In another development, the *Washington Times* carried an interview yesterday with Mr Adnan Khishoggi, the international Saudi financier linked to the arms deals, in which he said he gave a \$1,000 cheque to Vice-President George Bush for the Contras in 1985, months after the passage of a law banning US aid to the rebels. Mr Larry Thomas, Mr Bush's press secretary, denied the allegation.

In a further press report, *The New York Times* said yesterday that the CIA was providing the Contras with precise information on dams, bridges, electrical sub-stations, port facilities and other targets that the guerrillas would try to destroy. The Contras reportedly plan to attack the targets in a Spring offensive.



Former President Carter of the United States visiting the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and President Sadat in Cairo yesterday during a private Middle East tour.

Mr Carter told the American Chamber of Commerce yesterday that President Reagan

was neglecting the Middle East because he was inclined more than previous Presidents to conduct foreign policy with military force instead of diplomacy (AP reports from Cairo). The former President later had an hour-long talk with President Mubarak.

## Windsor jewels enchant Americans

From Charles Bremner, New York

It may have taken place 50 years ago, but the romance of the Windsors has once again proved its abiding fascination for Americans. New Yorkers and out-of-towners from as far away as Canada are flocking in thousands to Sotheby's Manhattan showrooms for a chance to see the Duchess of

Windsor's jewellery collection.

The greatest show on earth at the moment, *The Daily News* pronounced after the jewels, valued at \$7 million, went on display. The jewels are to be sold in Geneva next month. *The New York Times* devoted a front-page story to

the event, complete with pictures of the Duchess's diamond-studded leopards and ruby brooches.

The crush at the East Side gallery was so great that Sotheby's stopped advertising. On Wednesday the queue snaked hundreds of yards around the block.

## Djibouti blast in cafe kills 11

Djibouti (Reuters) - A bomb which killed 11 people in a cafe favoured by the French garrison here on Wednesday night was aimed at disrupting progress towards lasting peace in the Horn of Africa, according to the Foreign Minister, Mr Moumin Bahdon Farah.

Four Frenchmen, three West Germans and another European, thought to be Italian, were among the dead. Mr Farah said it was "an odious criminal act against innocents".

## Silent witness

Milan (Reuters) - Angelo Epaminonda, an alleged Mafia boss and chief witness in a case against 115 suspected members of underworld gangs in Milan, retracted all the evidence he had given in confessions to police.

## Trick letter

Houston (Reuters) - Two hundred suspects wanted for crimes ranging from burglary to rape were arrested after being lured to an insurance office by police letters saying they had come into money.

## Bride waits

Mbabane (AP) - The marriage of King Mswati III of Swaziland, aged 19, and 17-year-old Sibonelo Mngomezulu, daughter of an Anglican clergyman, has been postponed.

## Pilot error

Moscow (Reuters) - Police have arrested the captain of an Aeroflot Tupolev 134 airliner and accused him of smuggling drugs and watches.

## End of the dream for superstar Deaver

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

The rise and fall of Mr Michael Deaver is a Washington parable with all the right ingredients: money, power, glory, greed, ambition and top connections. President Reagan calls him a surrogate son. Nancy Reagan is a best friend. He was a superstar a year ago. Today he is broken.

He still has the Jaguar XJ6, the rented limousine, the plush offices in Washington's fashionable Georgetown district. But his reputation has been smashed, and most of the big clients have fled. He now stands accused of lying to a congressional subcommittee and to a Grand Jury.

The former White House Deputy Chief of Staff was indicted on Wednesday, and continues to profess innocence. What is really at issue is how this one-time superstar used his connections for clients like South Korea, Canada, and several big American companies. A federal law bans government officials from lobbying their old agencies for a year after leaving.

He is accused of lying about



Michael Deaver: master of image who fell from grace. his lobbying contacts with more than a dozen senior Reagan Administration officials before that year was up. These included Mr George Shultz, Secretary of State, and two former National Security Advisers, Rear-Admiral John Poindexter and Mr Robert McFarlane.

After resigning from the White House in May 1985, he built a lobbying firm earning more than \$2 million a year.

Perhaps his real crime was flaunting success, drawing attention to himself as the money rained down. "I was making more than I ever thought I'd see in my life. I was being recognized as something close to a genius."

This master of image, who so deftly steered President Reagan through the rituals of politics, failed to secure his own image. He posed for the cover of *Time* magazine last winter, photographed in a limousine making a phone call, with the Capitol dome in the background. "Who's this man calling?" the headline said. That kind of braggadocio is not liked in this town.

The day *Time* came out, Mrs Nancy Reagan called him. "Mike, you made a big mistake. I think you're going to regret it," she told him.

Within a few weeks, two congressional committees and the Office of Government Ethics began investigations. The Deaver dream started to crash.

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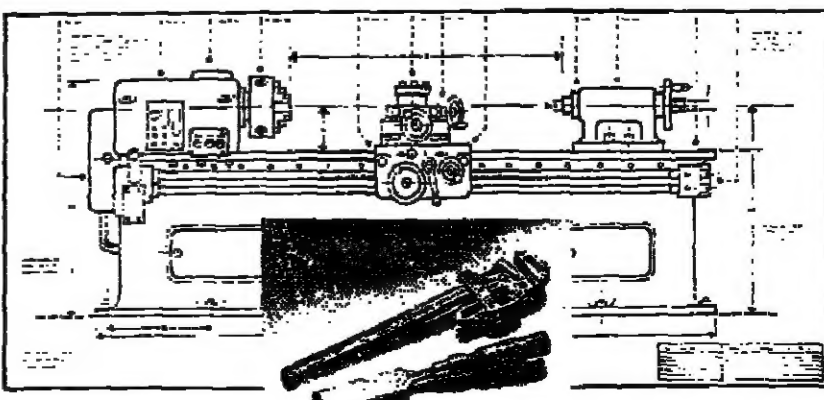
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# BSC INDUSTRY

HELP YOURSELF



## Howe looks for solution to row over Lagos visas office

By Andrew McEwen, Diplomatic Correspondent

Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, yesterday held fresh talks with the Nigerian High Commissioner, Mr George Doyin, as a damaging dispute between the two countries went into its fifth week.

The number of Nigerian visitors to Britain has been cut drastically since the abrupt closure of the British visa office in Lagos in February.

With airlines flying half-empty from Nigeria to Britain, business links curtailed and visits by Nigerians to their families in Britain at a virtual standstill, the side-effects have begun to bite.

Both British and Nigerian business circles are exasperated that the Nigerian Foreign Ministry and the British High Commission in Lagos have not yet come to terms.

The risks of a new period of sourness in the always-tough relations between the two countries are being taken seriously by ministers of both governments.

The row has revealed sensitivities over seemingly trivial and unconnected matters. The rights or wrongs of allowing a Nigerian flag to be flown in Liverpool, traffic regulations in Kensington and a bizarre Nigerian nightmare that British "007s" might be peeping from high windows in the new Lagos visa building into President Babangida's garden have been stirred into a cauldron of suspicion.

Whitehall has chosen to go along with the official Nigerian view that the argument

## Syria sends ruthless colonels to strengthen hold on Beirut

From Robert Fisk, Beirut

Syria has brought to west Beirut three of its most ruthless army officers, including the man credited with the destruction of part of the Syrian city of Hama, to maintain law and order in the Muslim sector of the city and to help persuade Muslim extremists to release their foreign hostages.

The Syrians have now issued a warning to Lebanese kidnappers that "the severest possible punishment" would be visited upon them if any of the 25 foreigners still missing here are killed. The threat,

Three people died when a bomb destroyed a car in the commercial district of Christian east Beirut yesterday (Reuters reports). Two of the dead were in the car; they have not been identified and no motive has been established.

said to have been passed on through Shia Muslim clerics in Beirut, is going to be taken seriously given the background of the men who have arrived here from Damascus.

The three colonels in the Syrian "special forces", all of whom commanded troops in the bloody suppression of Muslim extremists at Hama in 1982, have set up headquarters near the terminal at Beirut airport. With a fine sense of irony, Colonel Hisham al-Moualim, reputed to have been the officer who ordered Syrian tanks to blow apart much of the old quarter of Hama, has established his own communications centre beside the ruins of the US Marine headquarters, which was destroyed by a truck bomber in October 1983 at a cost of 241 American lives.

Colonel Ali Deeb and Colonel Abdul-Hamid Sultan, whose names are virtually unknown in the West but who are among the most feared officers in the Syrian military establishment, have placed their tank units beside the



Machine-gun in hand, one of the 7,000 Syrian troops deployed in west Beirut examines goods displayed on a street stall.

runways of the airport, just beside the Shia Muslim shams controlled by the Hezbollah (Party of God) movement. The three colonels have the personal trust of President Assad and their presence in Beirut is a sign of Syria's political and military commitment here.

It is also a warning. Up to 20,000 people were reported to have been killed when Syrian "special forces" stormed the rebel-held areas of Hama in the 1982 uprising. The revolt started when members of the Sunni Muslim Brotherhood massacred local Syrian members of the ruling Baath Party.

The commander of the regular Syrian army in Lebanon, Major General Said Beirakeir,

now spends three days a week in Beirut. He commands regular Syrian troops on the city's perimeter in conjunction with the three colonels, spending the rest of his week at Syrian military intelligence headquarters at Anjar in the Bekaa Valley. Syrian intelligence on the foreign hostages is conducted from Anjar.

Until now, Brigadier-General Ghazi Kassar, who was a lieutenant at Hama, has been the public face of Syria's military presence in Beirut.

The three more fearsome figures have arrived in Beirut when the pro-Iranian Hezbollah movement, which is believed to be holding most of the foreign hostages, has been split between those Shia Muslims who support Hojatoleslam

Rafsanjani, the Speaker of the Iranian Parliament and probably the most powerful figure in Iran, and Ayatollah Hussein Ali Montazeri, the chosen successor to Ayatollah Khomeini. This division mirrors the power struggle in Tehran.

The kidnapping of four lecturers at a Beirut University College in January is now rumoured to have been carried out by pro-Montazeri gunmen calling themselves Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine. The disappearance of Mr Terry Waite, the Archbishop of Canterbury's envoy, is now also said by some Shia Muslim militia sources to have been the work of the same faction.

Hojatoleslam Rafsanjani has already promised to try to find Mr Waite, but the issue runs much deeper. The Iranian helped to arrange the secret mission to Iran of Mr Robert McFarlane, the former US National Security Adviser, and the revelations in Washington that the arms Mr McFarlane carried with him were part exchange for American hostages placed Mr Waite's role as a negotiator for those same hostages under a cloud.

The machinations in Tehran are only too relevant to events in Beirut. Hojatoleslam Rafsanjani was responsible for the arrest and subsequent "confession" of murder of Mr Mehdi Hashemi, the brother of Ayatollah Montazeri's son-in-law and the Iranian who tried to warn Ayatollah Khomeini of the secret arms deal with the Americans.

With Mr Hashemi now admitting his "crimes" on Iranian television, Ayatollah Montazeri's supporters are keen to embarrass Hojatoleslam Rafsanjani at the cost of disrupting Iran's relations with Syria. Thus the Syrians in Beirut are dealing with two Hezbollah parties. The newly-arrived strongmen of the Syrian Army have to impress both.

## Iranians welcome offer by Runcie

Beirut - The offer of the Archbishop of Canterbury to try to locate an Iranian diplomat kidnapped in Lebanon five years ago in return for help in tracing Mr Terry Waite, his missing envoy, received an official welcome from the Iranian Embassy in west Beirut yesterday (Robert Fisk writes).

A document circulated by the embassy's press section said that the diplomats there "welcome the intentions of representatives of the Anglican Church to mediate with the Christians to release four missing diplomats who have been held for four years".

The Archbishop's office at Lambeth Palace explained earlier this week that Dr Robert Runcie had offered to try to locate only one Iranian diplomat, but the embassy prefers to believe that he is trying to find four diplomats kidnapped by Phalangist gunmen while travelling from Tripoli to Beirut in July 1982.

Iran's statement made no direct mention of Mr Waite.

## Struggling copper mines symbolize Zambian problems

From Paul Valley, Kitwe

At Nchanga open-pit mine near Chingola, in the Zambian copper belt, there are 110 massive earthmoving lorries, each of which can shift more than 100 tons of copper waste at a time. Thirty-three of the gargantuan vehicles are standing idle, not because there is no copper to dig, but because there is no foreign exchange to buy the relatively minor spare parts they need, or to pay the skilled mechanics required to fix them.

Nchanga produces about a quarter of Zambia's copper, the mineral which, together with the associated cobalt, provides more than 95 per cent of the country's export earnings.

For Zambia, the turnaround coincided with independence.

earnings. Its problems are a microcosm of the entire nation, which is slowly being brought to a grinding halt, trapped in a vicious circle of international debt and grossly inefficient management.

A team from the International Monetary Fund has been in Lusaka for some weeks, seeking agreement on yet another attempt to rescue the situation after its last package collapsed earlier this year. Zambia, which was once one of the richest and most industrialized states in Africa, is left facing its worst crisis since independence.

The copper is due to run out here within the next 15 to 30 years, and Zambia's only hope for the future is a total restructuring of its economy to develop both self-sufficiency and extensive export earnings from agriculture. To do that in so short a time requires the massive injections of cash which only the copper industry can provide.

But Zambia Consolidated Copper Mines (ZCCM) are today trapped in a downward spiral of falling production and permanent shortage of the foreign exchange it needs to produce more copper for export.

Copper has always been a cyclical commodity. The high fixed costs involved in production make it difficult to respond swiftly to market fluctuations. "Production has traditionally always been about 40 to 50 per cent above demand or below it. It was always feast or famine," one mineral industry analyst said.

"For Zambia, the turnaround coincided with independence. The new Government suddenly found itself in control of a far greater income than in colonial times. It spent it. When the price plummeted in 1974, they continued to spend, borrowing to tide themselves over until demand increased again. The copper industry did the same, using the loans to maintain capital programmes and to subsidize running costs."

But this time the turnaround never came. The rise in oil prices suppressed much of the industrial activity on

which copper depended, and the micro-electronics revolution reduced the demand from the electrical industry.

Because the Government, out of misplaced pride and confidence, refused to allow the value of the kwacha to deteriorate in relation to other currencies, Zambian copper became over-valued on the world market. Export earnings plummeted, and so did levels of reinvestment and even maintenance.

Today production is a mere 60 per cent of the old levels. "We hope it is at its nadir. We produced 750,000 tonnes in 1971, and only 450,000 in 1985 and 1986. This year will be much the same. And the less we produce, the less foreign exchange we earn, which reduces our activity still further. We are now earning in real terms only half of what we did in the early years of independence," one mining official said.

"The irony is that for every dollar the Government allocates to us we can earn four. With our present resources we could easily be producing 550,000 tonnes, but they won't make the exchange available."

In 1985, only \$200 million (£128 million) of a promised \$300 million reached ZCCM from the Bank of Zambia. Last year, \$320 million was requested and only \$234 million arrived. This year payments are already five per cent behind.

The position of the industry would be even worse if it was not for a two-year \$300 million rehabilitation programme, financed by the World Bank, the EEC and the African

Development Bank, which is replacing underground and open-pit equipment.

It is also paying for foreign trainers to teach the skills which the industry lost when expatriate technicians left Zambia as salaries became uncompetitive or were replaced by local people under the Government policy which led to a decline in per capita productivity.

The programme has made a significant impact in replacing inefficient equipment. But other aspects of its cost-cutting plan have yet to prove effective.

There have been token reorganizations within the management structure and some "non-essential" subsidiaries have been hived off into a separate company which does not have access to ZCCM's foreign exchange. "There has been a small increase in economic activity, but the appearance has changed more than the reality," said one insider. Some 3,000 miners have been made redundant. The social consequences of that are devastating in a region where most breadwinners support an extended family of around 10 members.

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## Defence blueprint aims to make Australia a formidable area power

From Stephen Taylor, Sydney

The Australian Government unveiled a strategic blueprint yesterday which would for the first time make the country self-reliant in defence and establish it as a formidable regional power.

The contents of a White Paper tabled by the Minister of Defence, Mr Kim Beazley — the first on defence since 1976 — will be as keenly studied by the Soviet Union and Indonesia, who would not welcome Australian assertiveness in the south Pacific, as by the US, which would.

The biggest obstacle to carrying out the proposals is the Australian economy. The plan involves projected costs of about \$A\$2.5 billion (about £10.75 million) when government spending cuts are already inevitable.

The blueprint is based on an exhaustive report produced last year by Mr Paul Fidd, who has since taken over a senior intelligence post. It was criticized by some senior US defence authorities as being over-optimistic in assessing the region as benign, and for its emphasis on an isolationist "Fortress Australia" strategy.

Adjustments have been made to meet these criticisms, but the broad thrust of the Dobb report is adhered to.

This is that major upgrading of military hardware is necessary to make Australia secure against any regional threat; and that projection of Australian forces into distant theatres, such as Vietnam, should never again be necessary.

Mr Beazley told Parliament that the strategy was defence.



Mr Kim Beazley: offensive operations not ruled out.

sive, but that that did not mean Australia's forswearing offensive operations.

A concept of three-layered defence consisted of:

● The comprehensive surveillance and intelligence obtained through the joint facilities operated with the US

on Australian soil, and through over-the-horizon technology developed here.

● Improved air and naval capability provided by extending the in-flight fuelling capability for FA 18 and F 111 strike aircraft, and new submarines and frigates.

● Mobile ground forces with air and naval support.

In spite of the emphasis on self-reliance — "the only responsible defence posture for Australia" — the plan underlines the importance of ties with traditional allies such as the US and New Zealand.

Mr Beazley announced last month that, in a new south Pacific initiative, Canberra was to put its defence ties with island states such as Vanuatu and Kiribati on the same footing as those it has traditionally maintained with South-East Asia.

This disclosure was pointedly timed, as Canberra was preparing for a visit by Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, the Soviet Foreign Minister. Concerns about Soviet intentions in the Pacific were not eased by the visit, a fact again emphasized implicitly by Mr Beazley yesterday. He said that the Soviet presence at Cam Ranh Bay in Vietnam was "an adverse element".



The Indian film star and politician, Mr Sunil Dutt, left, arriving triumphantly in Delhi on a 1,000-mile peace march against the communal violence in Punjab. Thousands greeted Mr Dutt, who set off from Bombay and hopes to reach Amritsar next month.

## Aquino may have been intended as bombers' target

From Keith Dalton, Manila

President Aquino of the Philippines yesterday inspected the bombed military academy grandstand where the day before four people had died in what military investigators admit could have been an assassination attempt by disgruntled soldiers.

The Defence Secretary, Mr Rafael Bito, who accompanied Mrs Aquino to the Philippines Military Academy in Baguio, 120 miles north of Manila, modified his charge that the bombing was carried out by communist rebels and conceded that it may have been an "inside job".

In a closed-door meeting with Mrs Aquino immediately after she had flown to the resort city, military investigators disclosed that the grandstand was almost destroyed by three home-made bombs triggered simultaneously by a timing device, according to the press secretary, Mr Teodoro Benigno.

The bombs, in three places in the grandstand roof, were fashioned from the warheads of Soviet-made B 40 rockets normally used against tanks, Mr Benigno said.

The chief military investigator, Brigadier-General Jesus de la Cruz, meanwhile said that the bombs had been placed directly above the podium where Mrs Aquino was

to have viewed a cadet graduation ceremony this Sunday. Mrs Aquino may have been the "intended victim", he said, but the bombs could have exploded prematurely.

The explosions blew off half the concrete grandstand roof and shattered the walls and floor as 100 officers and civilians watched a march-past rehearsal by the academy's 149 graduating cadets.

Baguio — Several workers suspected of having planted bombs in the Philippines Military Academy which killed four people and injured about 40 on Wednesday have been detained by the military authorities (Renter reports).

A lieutenant-colonel, two sergeants and a woman were killed. Mrs Aquino met families and relatives of the dead and later visited the 43 injured.

Military sources admit it is possible the blasts could have been the work of anti-Aquino members of the academy, which is renowned for its opposition to the 13-month-old Government.

Another possibility is that the bombers were military sympathizers linked to political and civilian supporters of the deposed President, Mr Ferdinand Marcos.

## Sri Lanka's Tamil war

### Army seeks to win hearts and minds

From Michael Hamlyn, Jaffna

Under the shade of a spreading tree in the far northern dry zone of Sri Lanka, Captain Gamini Kumara sat looking, with his week-old beard and camouflage baseball cap, more like a bandit than the separatist guerrillas he is fighting.

He offered sweets to Tamil children sweating in crowded buses as they waited to pass the scrutiny of his soldiers at the Elephant Pass checkpoint, which links the Jaffna peninsula with the rest of the island republic.



sula with the rest of the island republic.

"They suffer, waiting in this heat," he said. Such tenderness from the armed forces trying to hold down a rebellion which has virtual control of the peninsula is unexpected. Indeed, the Sri Lankan armed forces, dominated by the majority Sinhalese community, are widely regarded among the Tamils as an instrument of oppression and even barbarity.

At checkpoints the behaviour of the security forces has in the past been boorish and hostile. The armed forces' attitude to the Tamils has often been conditioned by seeing companions blown to pieces in road bombings.

But the authorities are anxious to change this: since 1983, there has been no major backlash against Tamils in the south after attacks on the armed forces or, as has happened with increasing frequency recently, upon unarmed Sinhalese civilians. The politeness campaign at Elephant Pass follows a particularly brutal terrorist attack a few days earlier when 17 people died.

### Expulsion move sought over child sex attacks

From Ian Murray, Jerusalem

The Israeli Ministry of the Interior is drawing up a deportation order against an ultra-Orthodox child psychologist wanted for questioning in the United States about alleged sexual assaults on more than 100 children, of whom 28 are now said to be suffering from AIDS.

The man involved, Dr Avroham Mondrowitz, has been living in Israel for two years using an extended tourist visa, but according to relatives he has now gone into hiding with his wife and six of his seven children. His lawyer has described the allegations, made in charges by the Brooklyn Sex Crimes Squad, as "ugly libel".

In an interview last summer with the *Jerusalem Post*, Dr

provinces, which the Tamils regard as their "homeland", are dotted with military camps surrounded by areas of abandoned houses.

In the latest military operations in the peninsula, the forces have been at pains to keep civilian casualties to a minimum, and now they are inviting those who fled before the advancing troops to come back and reclaim their homes.

"We shall ensure their safety," promised a military intelligence officer in Palaly Camp, the largest of the Defence Ministry's outposts in the north. "We have now heard that a number of people are prepared to come back and live in these areas."

Further south in the Mannar district, which is closest to the Indian mainland, and from which entire villages emptied into refugee camps in the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu, the Sri Lankan authorities are making a concerted effort to woo the refugees back.

They claim some success. According to Colonel Upali Karanaratne in the district military headquarters in Vavunia, boatloads containing several hundred refugees have returned.

The colonel spent some hours last week visiting the villages, ensuring that government aid to those returning was being adequately spent.

Mr K. Narwar Singh, the Indian Minister of State for External Affairs, yesterday ruled out Indian military intervention to end the civil strife in Sri Lanka (A Correspondent writes from Delhi). He told members of the upper house of Parliament that military intervention would have "grave and serious" consequences which India was not willing to risk.

The Tamils themselves claim, however, that the people returning are not really proposing to settle back in their old homes. They are taking advantage, they say, of the opportunity to check on their property and fields, and will soon return to exile.

But until a concerted hearts-and-minds campaign of the sort begun, on however small a scale, by Captain Kumara and Colonel Karanaratne can take root, there will be little chance of peace talks ending with both communities living peacefully side by side.



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## SPECTRUM

# Europe's nice little earner

In Burundi Euro MPs danced on the tables. In Swaziland they relaxed in a hotel jacuzzi known as the "cuddle puddle". In Luxembourg, according to EEC folklore, there once took place what is referred to in hushed tones as "the toga party".

Typical behaviour by our over-paid and under-worked European representatives, perhaps. The MEPs deny it, angrily; it is all, they say, typical of the unfair, distorted and outdated media image of the European parliament. Such incidents, say MEPs, are merely exceptions to the rule.

Of course they would say that, especially with the EEC celebrating next week the 30th anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Rome, a time when our men in Strasbourg are particularly anxious to see the parliament taken more seriously. For too long, complain its members, the parliament has been "fair game" for lurid "junkie" stories in the British tabloids.

The new president of the European parliament, Sir Henry Plumb — the first Englishman to announce in Strasbourg that he would gladly "die a European" — has already pounced on a birthday junkie to Rome and launched an investigation into the £500,000 cost of a trip to Tanzania.

The parliament is in many ways a curious institution. Very few people even know who their MEP is. Thirty years after the Treaty of Rome was signed, it conveys an image — at least to the British public — of a talking shop composed of political lightweights and second-raters who spend most of their time either enjoying the fleshpots of Strasbourg or going on expenses-paid trips overseas.

Other European nations, it has to be said, tend to take the parliament more seriously. But it must also be said that as with most

**Big-spending Euro MPs have had their wings clipped ahead of next Wednesday's EEC 30th birthday.**

**Richard Owen investigates**

caricatures, there is some truth in the junkie image. On the other hand, MEPs like to think their intellectual calibre is at least as high as Westminster MPs.

Plumb seems determined to get more teeth for the parliament — it is still largely a consultative body — but with the EEC in its infancy by the standards of European history, he faces formidable obstacles: the often unruly, super-

## HOW IT ADDS UP

- Basic salary ranges from £43,000 for French and Germans down to £7,500 for Luxembourg. Average for British, £17,000. Taxable in home state.
- Attendance allowance £88 a day, to cover hotels, meals etc.
- Travel allowance outside EEC, based on distance between MEPs' home address in the member state and the destination. First class rail and air fares.
- Travel within EEC: maximum of £1,825 a year.
- Office costs: £19,000 a year, to cover staff and rent.
- Research assistants and secretarial staff in constituency and Brussels/Strasbourg: £30,000 a year. Some members employ their wives, which is allowed.

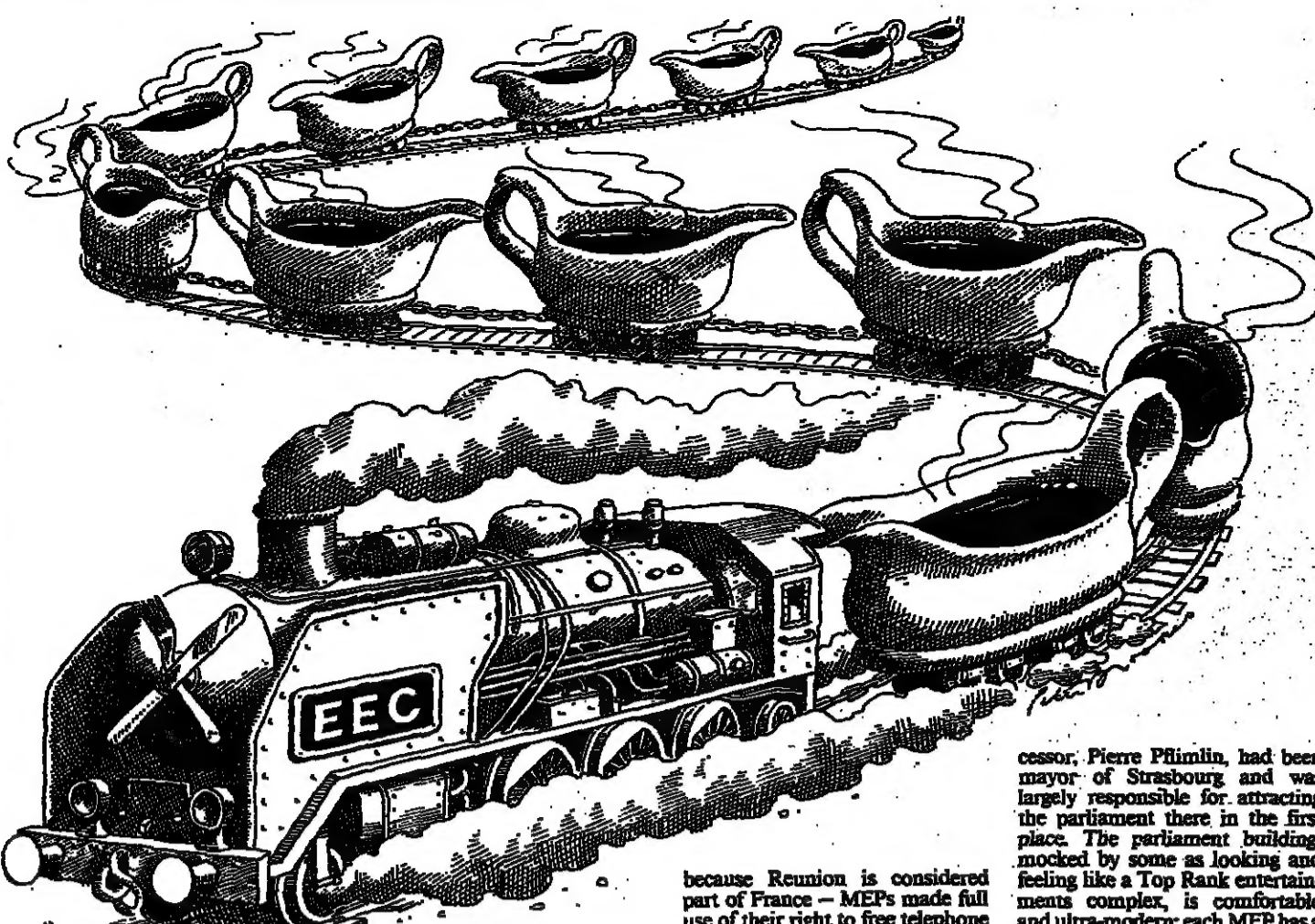
ficial and irresponsible nature of the parliament's proceedings, with MEPs declaiming rather than debating and with hours wasted in procedural wrangles and much tabling of complex minority amendments; and the parliament's public image as a place where MEPs enjoy a lavish life-style at the taxpayer's expense.

Plumb is cracking down on overseas jaunts, which do little to enhance Europe's relations with the rest of the world and are unnecessarily expensive, and his Tanzanian post mortem followed a trip by 66 MEPs, plus a large retinue of interpreters and secretaries — 136 people went with the MEPs all told.

Only a third of the MEPs took the flight chartered by the parliament; the rest chose to travel first class, an entitlement under the parliament's travel rules. The total cost was nearly half a million pounds.

As for the Tanzanians, they were offended not so much by the cost as by subsequent newspaper reports — discounted by Sir Henry's staff — that the Arusha hotels were rat-infested, located in an Aids danger zone and so short of toilet paper that MEPs had to use official documents. "It was as if not only MEPs were fair game but also the Tanzanians, who were hurt and offended", one parliament official said, adding: "One of the reports had MEPs' sexy secretaries sunning themselves on the beach, when in fact Arusha is in the mountains."

When Euro MPs go to third world countries to talk about such worthy matters as development aid and the lone convention they often find themselves in agreeable, sunny, locations. The best country lays on feasts and entertainment, basking briefly in the EEC limelight. There is plenty of scope there for investigative (or imaginative) pens. And the suspicion



that the MEPs live the lavish life in Strasbourg is fuelled when MEPs refuse to be photographed or filmed anywhere near the parliament's numerous bars (a parliamentary rule against photographs was initiated by British members afraid of conveying the wrong image).

One of the most controversial "junks" was to Swaziland last year, when MEPs were accused of hypocrisy for condemning apartheid while enjoying Swaziland's South African-owned hotels and facilities (including the "cuddle puddle", which no MEP admits to having actually used). Even the flight from Europe was on Luxavia, which is South African-owned.

This led to much political

agonizing, particularly, though not only, among left-wing members. It was after the Swaziland trip that Sir James Scott-Hopkins, Tory member for Hereford, and Alf Lomas, leader of the Labour MEPs, called without success for reduced interpreting and travel costs. Some members, it was revealed, take their wives or girlfriends along on EEC trips, and some barely bother to attend conference sessions.

There are signs that some of the wilder ideas for spending EEC money are being tamed. One casualty of the Plumb crackdown was a plan to move all 518 MEPs to Rome for the 30th anniversary celebrations. A smaller group will go instead.

Fewer trips with fewer travellers are not the only aims; when one Euro parliament committee held a meeting on the French island of Reunion in the Indian Ocean —

because Reunion is considered part of France — MEPs made full use of their right to free telephone calls, at an estimated cost of £30,000.

Many of the parliament's problems are endemic, however; they stem from the sheer logistical difficulties of co-ordinating the activities of members from 12 countries speaking nine official languages and operating from three centres — Strasbourg, (the debating chamber, leased from the Council of Europe); Luxembourg (the secretariat); and Brussels (committee rooms).

The obvious solution, and one which is gaining support among MEPs, is for the parliament to move to Brussels. Last year the parliament set aside funds for a new chamber there, to be built in the same area of high rise Euro buildings as the commission and the council of ministers — thus putting parliament at the centre of EEC power.

Plumb is the key figure in the move, not least because his prede-

cessor, Pierre Pflimlin, had been mayor of Strasbourg and was largely responsible for attracting the parliament there in the first place. The parliament building, mocked by some as looking and feeling like a Top Rank entertainment complex, is comfortable and ultra-modern; each MEP has a well-appointed room containing a study, shower room and a couch which folds down as a bed. A move from Strasbourg would bring a tear or two to the eyes of the local restaurateurs as well as their parliamentary customers (no more agonizing over the ethics of eating *pâté de foie gras*). The parliament itself estimates that moving to Brussels would save £20 million a year. The move would mean saying farewell to the parliament's facilities: bars, shops, even a hairdresser.

Pflimlin foresaw that the parliament might one day leave his beloved Strasbourg so the building was designed in such a way that it can be converted at short notice into a hotel and conference centre. Whether the lurid tales of self-indulgence at home and abroad would stop with the departure of Euro MPs from Strasbourg or simply accompany them to Brussels is another matter.

Number 34 Salkai Street, Budapest, hardly looked a promising spot to find private enterprise flourishing in a communist state.

Inside, the place had the feel of an English cocktail caretaker's office, circa 1965. Private, without doubt, but where was the enterprise? A man with tired eyes and a grey jersey offered a subdued welcome.

How wrong first impressions can be in Hungary. The fatigue of Gyula Csoska, the boss, turned out to stem not from boredom but heavy responsibilities. Making a mint east of the Iron Curtain takes the same impossible hours as west of it.

He and 48 partners, together with 20 employees, had turned an initial investment of about £15,000 into £150,000 in 18 months. Their company, Mastrodora, which sets up trade fair stands, was creaming business away from much larger state-owned competitors. Already they had enough

## Taste of western promise

**Andrew McEwen reports from Hungary, home of liberal communism**

publicity props to occupy 14 warehouses.

Csoka's subdued mood gave way to enthusiasm. "We're not like a state company where no one cares. We know we've got to please our customers if we want them to come back."

He and two partners, Eva Halagky and Idiko Csako, were clearly serious about

making money. Profit was the just reward of those who worked hard and took risks.

Like small business people everywhere they were plunging most of the profit back in the early years. The average income was being held down at £176 a month. (The figure is not as low as it seems: a Hungarian executive needs only about £500 a month to sustain a good standard of living).

Budapest began economic reforms as far back as 1968. Since 1982 the pace of change has quickened dramatically, producing around 35,000 small free-enterprise businesses employing 450,000 people. It is advances like these in Hungary, Moscow's most westernized satellite, that is influencing Mr Gorbachev's reforms.

Hungary is now about to introduce income tax as we know it, but at present state employees go untaxed. Private enterprises are subject to progressive taxes which average 50 per cent and reach 80 per cent at an income level of about £11,000 a year.



In the black Mr Csoska with two of his business team

An official of the Hungarian Chamber of Commerce estimated that an equivalent executive in a Hungarian state enterprise would earn about £2,400 a year, but that this would be worth as much as a private enterprise income of £4,400.

Less tangible though just as real is the sense of freedom private enterprise has given Csoska and thousands like him. "The whole mood of our generation is being changed," said Idiko Csako.

Hungary's avowedly communist government thinks that people like these will help bring the back-lagged economy to life. Mrs Thatcher, too, sees most new employment and much of the dynamism of the British economy as coming from small businessmen.

So what happened to traditional Moscow-line communism? The probable answer is that Janos Kadar, Hungary's 74-year-old leader, realized years ago that western methods created wealth faster. The trick was to re-name it market-place socialism.

## NEXT WEEK

**Gorbachev's Russia**

## Diplomat in the driving seat

**A well-loved series of motoring guides to Britain begun by Sir John Betjeman is back with a new distinguished editor**

**The Shell Guides to Britain** are back on the road, after several years in the pits. The new man in the driving seat is John Julius Norwich, author, historian, and former Foreign Office emissary.

He follows in a grand, if rather eccentric, vehicular line of editors, the first series of county-by-county guides having been edited by the late Sir John Betjeman in 1934. These Morris Minor-like guides ran out of gas in 1984, coasting sedately on to the hard shoulder of literary endeavour.

By comparison, the four new guides (Channel Islands, South and mid-Wales, North Scotland and the Islands, and Devon, Cornwall and the Scillies) bear all the modern certainties of the Volvo Estate. The important thing about these new guides is that they reflect a Britain which has been transformed from a land based around its counties to an administration of regions. "We are fortunate enough to have some very good mechanics here," says Norwich. He is speaking of the people at the publishing house, Michael Joseph, who have made the new guides shine with the verdure of the environment, while in no way diminishing their original function as a gazetteer of the countryside.

Norwich has been *in situ* for less than a year and reckons that the new format of guides



Steering his way around the country: John Julius Norwich

means that the nation will have been covered sometime around the mid-1990s. With his diplomatic background (third secretary at the British Embassy in Belgrade, 1955-57, second secretary, Beirut, 1957-60), and with his square, rather owlish head, he comes across as a sort of Geoffrey Howe refitted with a turbo engine.

Unlike Sir Geoffrey, he has his countryman's anger intact. This, for example, on the subject of Lord Redcliffe-Maud's revision of county boundaries in 1972: "The man rode roughshod over English history. The counties were not merely administrative departments. They were part of the fabric of our history. The counties go back to feudal times; they are the product of the patterns of dukedoms and earldoms. To this day, people living in rural Cheshire absolutely deplore the idea that they are deemed to be part of Greater Manchester."

Strange then that he should have become a celebrant of these heretical revisions. "Well, wait a minute. We

But enough of the guides themselves. The key to the character of any publication rests with that of its editor. To which end we should absorb the following anecdote. Evelyn Waugh would have been hard put to better it: "The trouble in Lebanon started when I got there. Nothing like recent events, I admit, but there was a civil war in 1958, when the president was besieged in his palace, 200 yards away."

Anyway, I got shot in the head. I was in a bubble car — do you remember them? — about 30 yards from my home. I was driving through a checkpoint; no-one said stop, but I stopped all the same, just in case. Then I waited for about half a minute; no-one came. So then I drove on and there was this terrific bang, as though I'd gone over a mine. I felt absolutely nothing.

"I did the inventory. You know, arms, legs, make sure they're working. Then I

jumped out of the car, fearing another sniper attack. In fact it was not a sniper who had shot at me, but the police."

"The neighbours all came out and offered me help; a clean shirt (my own looked like Lord Nelson's), drink, their sister, that sort of thing. I don't know whether it was a bit of the car knocked off by the bullet, or a bit of the bullet knocked off by the car, but whatever it was, it entered my head here (he places his index finger at a point on his lower cranium just behind the left ear lobe), and came out here." (The finger moves one inch forward of the ear.)

"Flesh wound," he laughs gaily. "Just a flesh wound. The pieces still keep coming out, even now. You get this itchy feeling around the ear, and then these bits of black stuff emerge. Frightfully odd."

With chaps like this in charge, the new *Shell Guides* surely cannot go far wrong.

**Alan Franks**  
*Shell Guides cost £8.95*

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Play time: Laughter in the string section of an orchestra (in rehearsal)

## Tunes of glory

From Brighton's themes of magic and myths to Glasgow's *Gorbals Story*... there will be a bumper crop of music throughout the country this summer. Tomorrow *The Times* gives a guide to the best of British festivals of song, music and dance

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## FRIDAY PAGE

## The last time I saw Keith



Liz Blakelock's husband kissed her and went to work. Hours later he was killed in the Tottenham riot. Brian James met a widow (left) with memories of a caring man

The last time Mrs Liz Blakelock saw her husband, he was laughing. "I'd just ruined the dinner, put the cabbage in the microwave and it came out like straining. But he thought it was funny. He kissed me. Then he went to work, on duty, still laughing." She takes out this precious fragment of memory and shares it with her audience.

Keith Blakelock's duty later that day took him, in his police constable's uniform, to Broadwater Farm, Tottenham, where at the critical moment of a night lit by flame and rage he became the first officer to die in racial rioting.

Now, 16 months after his murder, Mrs Blakelock has chosen to meet the Press. A slim, shy 37-year-old, she twists nervously when asked about her own feelings. She has no bitterness, she says. No desire for revenge. No regret about his decision to join the police. Can she still cry? "Oh yes, can I cry... at the drop of a hat. There is a moment of total silence in the room, but her twisting fingers would snap a steel bar.

The voice is stronger, the effort at control less evident, when she is asked about Keith. Talking about him, she says, is how she keeps him alive every day for her three sons: Mark, now aged 15, Kevin, 13 and Lee, 10. "His pictures are everywhere. I want them to ask about him. Cry about him, too, when they have to."

But she believes she has succeeded in keeping from them the newspaper accounts of the Old Bailey trial, the horrific description of witnesses who spoke of Keith Blakelock being "flung and kicked about like a rag doll" of attempts to mount his head on a spike. Why had no one

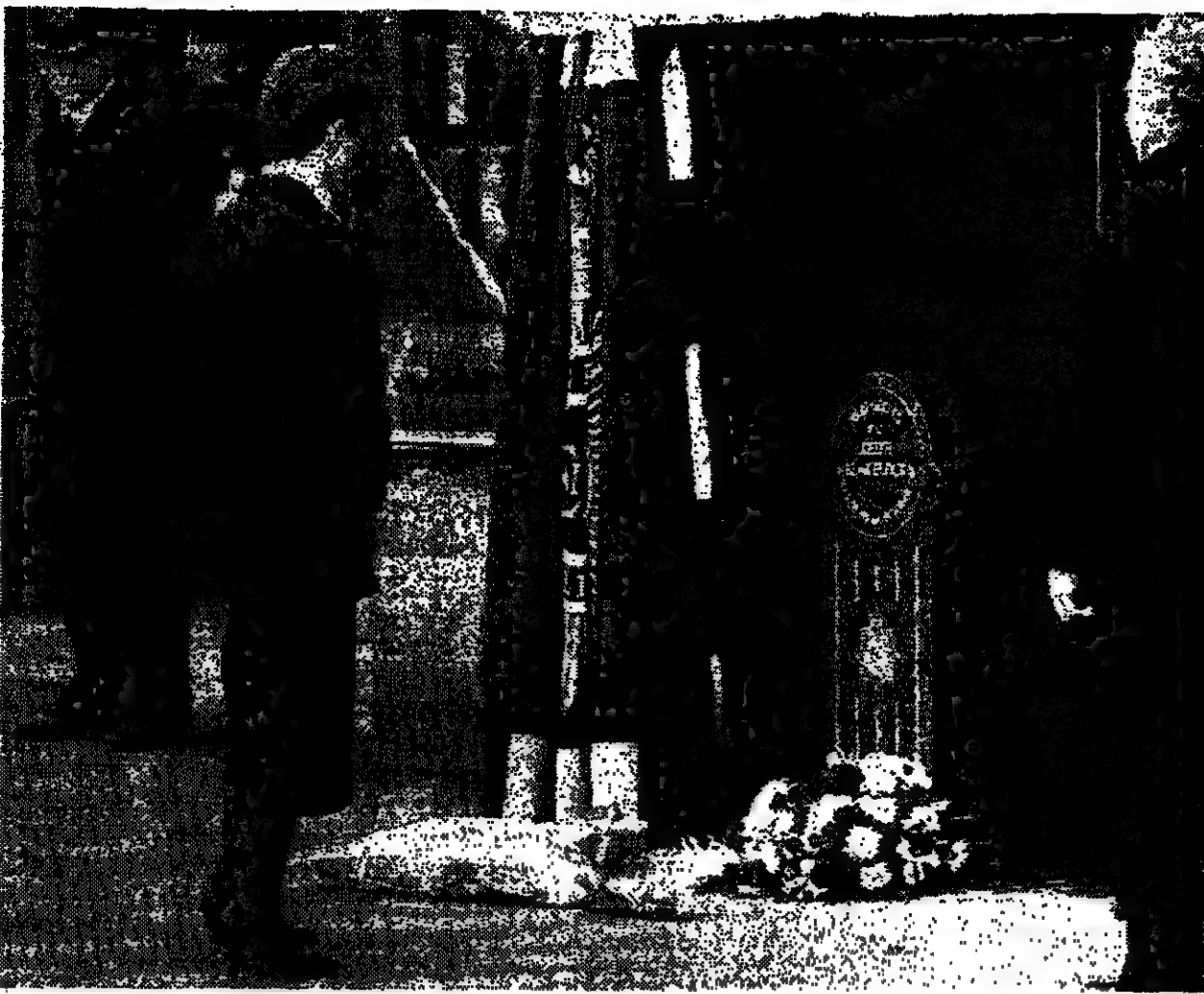
tried to keep such accounts from her? "I would not let them. I knew how my husband died. I had had to be told. But I went to the papers deliberately. I turn on purpose to the accounts of the trial. Not for the case, but because I want to read everything they say about Keith."

She talked about how they met, working in different offices in the same north-east factory. About her white wedding 15 years ago in the tiny pit village of Boldon, where she had grown up as a miner's daughter. About the honeymoon in Great Yarmouth. A huge laugh at that; but here were precious memories that were not for sharing.

She told why Keith Blakelock, a "real George, no mistake, full of fun", brought his family to London: "For the security, the peace. For him, his boys, the family. And that's why I would never think of taking them back up to the north-east. He came here to be a policeman. But he also came here for his family... I couldn't turn back on that."

There are still bad days for her sons. Usually at bedtime, when they come to her for a cuddle and a cry. No one had advised her, but she just knew it was better like that, to let the grief come out. Sometimes, indeed, they all have a howl together.

Mark, the eldest son, was very protective. Every day she came home he would be there to ask: "What sort of day did you have, Mum?" making it clear that he was ready to go and do whatever Dad would have done to whoever had made her day bad. She didn't want that: "I go out of my way now to make it clear he



In the line of duty: Liz Blakelock at her husband's memorial - "I see his face and hope that he would be proud of me"

doesn't have the responsibility of taking Keith's place. Mark is bigger than me, but he is only 15... he is still just a baby."

But of course no one could take Keith's place in the boy's life. (Even when they were babies he had been totally involved: "He was on night duty every night, changing the nappies.") She is glad of good friends, policemen she implies, ready to plug the gap now that there is no one in the house to take them to football or help them to mend their bikes. For herself, she is trying to take up new interests - college one day a week for cookery classes.

Keith, she says, was a romantic man. Dinner out on an anniversary. Unless he was on duty. Then he would not forget the flowers or chocolates. He was, above all, a caring man. She repeated the word: Caring not only about his family, but also about the job. "He was a community policeman. That meant everything to him."

Ironically, then, that that night he should have been seen on Broadwater Farm as the enemy? "It wasn't Keith they went out that night to kill. It wasn't any man - it was the uniform."

It had seemed a brave thing for her to have announced soon after her husband was killed that she felt no hate for his attackers. But could she still feel that now, knowing the manner of his death? "I did not feel hate, then. I do not now. Nor bitterness. I even try to be forgiving, for while I don't condone what they did, it would be just a waste of my life, filling it up with grievance. What I did feel was a bit of anger, but more sorrow that they should have killed a policeman who, above anyone, would do just anything to help."

Did she think that, now, she was nearly through the grief? "Grief doesn't follow any pattern. It is so many different emotions. I had never known grief until that night. I did not know how I was supposed to

feel. Something would come over me. I would feel terrible. And I would say 'That's it, it's done'. Then it would hit me again. Wave after wave. I never know when, what starts it. My religious beliefs, which are very strong, have helped me a lot. But, no, it is not finished yet."

What did she want in the way of punishment for the killers? "That the people who did it should be made to know what their actions meant. Then that they be given the punishment that is appropriate." She preferred not to say what is "appropriate" for lacking a man to death - but "not the death penalty. I don't believe in capital punishment."

Did the company of policemen, the uniforms, the talk of the job, invoke images that hurt? "Not now. It used to be so painful." But, she added, it had to be endured, because you don't walk away from the

strength of good friends. And when she hears Lee, the 10-year-old, telling anyone who will listen that he is going to be a bobby, just like Dad? "I think Keith would have encouraged it. So..." A shrug which lets you know that what Keith encouraged tended to happen in the Blakelock home.

"Oh yes, he was the strong one." And her? "A private sort of person. People tell me I have been strong. I can't see it. You do what you have to, however you feel inside."

"But seeing me like this" - her gesture took in the office in New Scotland Yard and her husband's old boss sitting silently nearby, but it also included her stoic appearance shielding her sons at the graveside and at the high-street memorial to the dead PC - "seeing me like this, Keith would have been amazed. And every decision for our future that I have to make I think back, see his face and hope that he would have been proud of me."

## The rules of a sterile society



BARBARA AMIEL

A 17-year-old mentally retarded girl called Jeanette could be sterilized "for her own good", the Court of Appeal ruled this week. The procedure was requested because Jeanette was showing signs of "sexual awareness" even though she has only the mental skills of a five-year-old.

There are ominous memories attached to the idea of compulsory sterilization for the mentally retarded. One remembers the eugenics of the Third Reich, and Hitler's call to safeguard "the good blood". That is all a far cry from the situation that faced the Court of Appeal this week, of course, and while the lessons of history should not be forgotten, neither should they be invoked hysterically. The spirit that informs our laws is very different from that which animated Nazi Germany. All the same, the wise society does not make laws for the era of Socrates - or Lord Denning - but frames them to resist the worst impulses of our times.

Are our courts being careful enough in their judgments? The Appeal Court took great pains in Jeanette's case to explain that such a drastic procedure as sterilization should only be used in desperate "last resort" cases. But what was last resort about her case? The evidence showed she was capable of reproduction but not capable of looking after a baby. The mere fact someone is incapable of looking after a baby is scarcely a sufficient reason for other people to put them under a general anaesthetic and operate upon them. If that were the case, just about all ambulatory mental patients would be up for sterilization as well as all sorts of under-age people who for economic or physical reasons might be unable to look after their children. Is that a public policy we would want to see?

If "last resort" means anything, it surely means an extreme case. That might include a mentally retarded girl with a serious congenital defect or a disease that could be passed on to her child. An extreme case could refer to a retarded teenager with a hormonal disorder causing severe sexual aggressiveness.

Unless there was a circumstance in Jeanette's case which was not apparent in the reports of the judgment, she did not fit into any of these categories. In fact, it was difficult not to conclude that this court was using the phrase

"last resort" in a rather hypocritical fashion, enabling them to agree to sterilization without really facing what they were doing. The real worry about this judgment is that it opens the door to the society which sets rules, standards, or tests of conformity for those of its citizens who want to have children. This is a remote and far-fetched spectre, of course, and on one level has little to do with the world of Jeanette. But just to be careful, some of us would much prefer to pay an extra 2p in our taxes if it would enable Jeanette to avoid pregnancy through careful supervision rather than by difficult or irreversible operations. Of course this is not a clear-cut issue. Jeanette, herself, might well be happier with the freedom that sterilization brings without social workers watching her day and night.

In the end, I have another concern about all this. In the past, when our society was very much poorer, and less equipped to deal with burdens like Jeanette, we seemed much more ready to assume burdens. Now we have become a rather convenience-oriented people. We used to put up with imperfections and difficulties. Now, we reach for the laser and the scalpel.

We seem ready to employ a procedure just because we are technically able to do so. This week a consultant gynaecologist proudly told a national newspaper of the hysterectomy he gave an 11-year-old mentally retarded girl whose grandfather couldn't cope with her periods. I find this horrifying. The removal of an uterus is a major abdominal operation involving both risk and pain and six weeks of recuperation. It may be an effective solution to inconvenient menstrual flow, but I can't believe that it is a moral one.

## Writer on parallel lives

East and West, facts and fiction: Han Suyin spans the cultural divide



Han Suyin: Finding a compromise to turn sorrow into strength

Han Suyin has not one but two successful careers: as an expert on modern China and as an author whose most famous book, *A Many-Splendoured Thing*, told of her love affair with an English doctor and later became a film. The link between political analyst and novelist intriguingly blends East and West.

Half Belgian, half Chinese, Suyin was born in Peking but qualified as a doctor in London. While running a medical clinic in Malaya, she began to write a series of spectacularly successful novels. Later she turned her attention to writing about the political and economic problems of modern China. In 1959, two years after meeting Vincent, the Roman Catholic Indian army engineer who became her third husband, she found herself acting as a go-between in the India-China border dispute. She later met both Premier Zhou Enlai and Prime Minister Nehru.

She is now 70, wears smart clothes and is brisk and professional in manner. She is in Britain this week for the publication of her latest book, *A Share of Loving*.

The book tells how Suyin and Vincent came to terms with caring for Vincent's son Peter. Nine years ago at the age of 33, Peter contracted tuberculous meningitis which left him permanently mentally and physically impaired. No

longer able to work and needing constant care. From being a successful engineer, he became a helpless, middle-aged child.

Vincent decided to take full responsibility for Peter at the family home in Bangalore. This decision threw Suyin into a profound dilemma. She was living with Vincent in Switzerland at the time, and was enjoying international acclaim as a lecturer and commentator on Chinese affairs. She was at the height of her success.

"I could have given up my work," she says, "but I knew it was no use pretending I would

never have all of Vincent, and had to be content with a share." Suyin says: "It was a question of turning distress and sorrow into strength. I still have moments of irritation and hurt, and great surges of anger. Peter himself can be very abusive and paranoid, due to his condition, and this hasn't made life any easier."

"I now know that it's the small, nagging things which destroy a marriage. You can either let them eat away inside you, or explode and get them out of your system."

Though her three score years and ten are now up, Suyin does not consider she is nearing the evening of her life. "I'm still as unsatisfied as ever," she says. "We have only one life and so must do everything we can."

"I can write easily because I have never identified myself as a writer. I've never had a literature lesson in my life. I write from the unconscious."

She has learned to value her "precious isolation" and her share of loving: "I can only write about China and India by not living there."

"And I finally came to the conclusion that Peter had been a blessing. He had helped to show me how flexible I was - to discover more about myself."

Liz Hodgkinson

© Times Newspapers Ltd 1987  
A Share of Loving by Han Suyin is published by Jonathan Cape, £9.95.

## TALKBACK

people's smoke poses other serious and well-established health risks - for asthmatics, children, the fetus, pregnant women, hay fever sufferers, contact lens wearers and those with exercise-induced asthma.

Mrs Amiel's article makes entertaining reading - but it is always sad to see the carefully researched work of so many eminent scientists scorned when their findings fail to suit other people's preconceptions.

From: K.M. Hogg, Arbor Road, Cromer, Norfolk

I am a non-smoking septuagenarian and according to medical evidence I am as sound as a bell. Yet I now discover that all my life I have been a "passive smoker", surrounded by active smokers and living precariously.

As a child I watched my father make his own cigarettes, my grandfather puffing away in his armchair. Later my sister and I shared a flat where she chain-smoked all day. I have been married for nearly 50 years to a 20-a-day woman and my daughters have both smoked regularly since reaching maturity. And still I survive.

I am sickened by the constant preachings of the pious, self-righteous anti-smoking lobby, most of whom no doubt drive cars which pollute the air with their fumes and many of whom I am sure drink beer or spirits which can cause even more wide-spread damage than smoking. I trust Edwin Currie's husband will continue

to resist her efforts to stop his smoking and that they will both, like me, live to a ripe old age.

From: Dr John Slome, Walm Lane, London NW2

In his report on breast cancer (Medical Briefing, March 12), Dr Stuttford says: "The For-est Report also decided that there was no evidence that the low levels of radiation used in mammography represented a significant danger."

Some of us will remember the enthusiasm with which an older generation of "experts" recommended that all pregnant women should have a chest X-ray.

It is surely against all principles of common sense to subject tissue (the breast), which has a high potential to become cancerous, to the added cancer-producing stimulus of X-rays.



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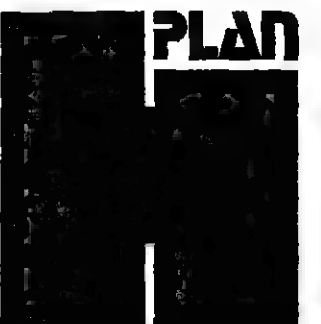
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From: Donald Reid, Coordinator of Smoking Education Programme, Health Education Council, 78 New Oxford Street, London WC1

We can all agree with Barbara Amiel (Friday Page, March 13) when she says as a non-smoker that she has "no way of telling you whether any of these studies [on passive smoking] are true or not." Yet, in her next breath she says that the recent Government statement on the link between passive smoking and lung cancer is untrue. She even accuses her opponents of lying when they claim that the health hazards of second-hand smoke have not been scientifically established.

In fact lung cancer is only the thin edge of the wedge as far as passive smoking is concerned. Breathing other



THE TIMES DIARY

Happiest of birthdays

Among the list of four Soviet dissidents whose release was disclosed yesterday, one name brought special joy to Irina Ratushinskaya, the Russian poet who was freed last October after four years captivity. The mathematician Valery Senderov was one of her best friends before his arrest, just two months before her own. When I broke the news of his release to her in New York she was overcome: "I can hardly speak. I am so happy. I have not seen him since his arrest. I was afraid they would kill him, because he would never renounce his beliefs."



Ratushinskaya and Senderov, partners in dissent

It was at her behest that David Astor, the founder of the Irina Trust which campaigned for her release, announced his intention of helping Senderov at an Amnesty International meeting in Plymouth last weekend. Yesterday the campaigner for Jewish rights was celebrating his 42nd birthday in his Moscow flat. "It is the first time the Soviet authorities have given me a present," he told me.

Bleak house

Concert-goers who have paid to hear Yehudi Menuhin conduct the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra at the Festival Hall on Thursday will be disappointed. Menuhin, at present in Tokyo, decided several weeks ago to break his return journey to visit his mother, now in her late nineties, in San Francisco, forcing him to cancel his London appearance. "The RPO were very nice about it," Menuhin's secretary tells me. "The sponsors weren't too happy, but it was all sorted out about six weeks ago." But I fear there has been a failure of communication: the Festival Hall box office, its press office and a spokesman for the RPO all insist that Menuhin will conduct. Meanwhile, the concert has sold out.

BARRY FANTONI



'Better take back that book about getting a job or you'll go to jail'

Pre-emptive

Could Labour's front bench be about to steal more of Mrs Thatcher's thunder? After Neil Kinnock's reinterpretation of his party's policy to send back cruise missiles (ie not send them back, or not yet), rumours are growing that Denis Healey could be Moscow-bound before Mrs Thatcher's visit later this month. Yesterday a shadow foreign secretary, who likes to call himself Labour's Gromyko, was in California, unavailable for comment. His office was "trying to find out" if a trip was imminent. Privately, I understand, Labour party workers have been urging just such a trip to put Labour's defence policy on the offensive.

Stonewalling

More problems for Jim Callaghan after his Commons team lost out over Labour defence policy. He had agreed to be interviewed by Brian Walden for a series of Channel 4 - but when the conversation turned to defence Callaghan remained obstinately silent. Walden, I hear, abandoned the interview and went home.

● A recent meeting of the Met Office branch of the Institution of Professional Civil Servants was severely disrupted, reports the *IPCS Bulletin*, by bad weather.

Unholy alliance

As if Britain's spook-masters did not have enough problems with the BBC and Duncan Campbell, they may now be heading for a clash with Irish television. RTE's *Today, Tonight* on Wednesday evening claimed that British military intelligence and the SAS collaborated with loyalist paramilitary groups in a series of sectarian murders in the mid-1970s, including the massacre of a southern showband. While a spokesman for the Ministry of Defence responded with scorn when I asked the *bona fides* of two men claiming to have worked in military intelligence who were interviewed for the programme, the Irish are taking a more serious view, and the allegations are being investigated by the Garda. Joe Tiernan, who spent a year researching the programme, tells me he stands by his sources.

PHS

Managing on a shoestring

by Peter Moore

In little over a month, two government-commissioned studies into management education will be published. They are likely to highlight the discrepancy between what is available in Britain and in competitor countries and recommend a big effort to reduce the gap.

Everywhere, managers, teachers and politicians are crying out for more management education. Against this background it is hard to believe - but is nevertheless true - that money is being taken away from leading British business schools. Worse still, in the case of the London Business School, the damage is aggravated by sudden switches of government funding policy.

The University Grants Committee has recently decided to cut the public funds available to the business schools in Manchester and London. Both are autonomous and predominantly privately funded. In London, we provide three facilities: postgraduate courses, executive programmes and research centres. The last two are self-supporting. Only the postgraduate courses - attended by Britain's young managers of the future - are helped by public money, and then only for British students. Those from overseas pay in full.

The subsidy provides 28 per cent of our total income, and it is this grant which is now at risk. The UGC is wielding the axe with one hand while patting us on the head with the other. Its reports attest to the quality of our teaching; we were awarded a star for the excellence of our research and our Master of Business Administration programmes were said to be "out-standing".

Britain is thought to need 75,000 new managers every year; barely 6,000 receive any formal relevant training before starting. Demand for places at business schools remains strong. With all this in mind, the LBS planned - with UGC encouragement and indeed agreement - a 40 per cent increase in the number of students from the UK. We raised private money to house them and work started just after Christmas.

Less than two months later, we learnt that our grant for 1989/90 would fall in real cash terms by 20 per cent. Taking the proposed increase in numbers into account, this means a 40 per cent cut in the money to be spent on each student.

That sort of cut can be made only by drastically pruning the school's activities. To do that would mean surrendering our international position.

Alternatively, we could hope to make up the shortfall by raising fees for British students by 150 per cent. But that would be dangerous. Management education would lose to other professions in the scramble for talent, and applicants would tend to be those with easy access to financial resources.

Young graduates from our courses (the average age is about 29) would concentrate too heavily on achieving high initial salaries to pay off what they had borrowed to study - already many run up debts of £10,000 or more. Lastly, overseas students would collar an undue proportion of the places because, paradoxically, many have access to fee and maintenance subsidies.

There is a limit to cost cutting by educational institutions without cutting corners. It seems particularly foolish to starve a sector of higher education which, it is agreed by an unusually wide consensus, is vital to the competitiveness of our economy.

The author is principal of the London Business School.

Michael Parkinson reviews the complex legacy of Militant misrule

The inner cities are again a focus of political debate: the Audit Commission predicts impending financial chaos, the "loony left" issue threatens to swamp Neil Kinnock's election chances and the government denies there is a link between unemployment and rising crime. As usual Liverpool leads on all three issues.

The disqualification of 47 Liverpool Labour councillors means that the new Liberals administration, as it always feared, has reaped the financial whirlwind of Labour's balancing act of political confrontation and creative accounting. Labour left a revenue budget which is barely legal and a huge housing programme financed by £60 million worth of deferred payment loans whose five-year repayment period starts soon. Labour's years of bankruptcy threats and secret financial deals have also destroyed public confidence in any politician's account of the council's finances.

What are the choices facing Sir Trevor Jones, the Liberal leader? In the short term, two things. He should call in the Audit Commission to produce an independent statement of Liverpool's financial affairs. If he doesn't he will be accused of making political capital out of the city's problems. Some Liberal statements about the city's £800 million capital debt already come close to that. It is not primarily the result of Labour profligacy, as the Liberals imply. Such talk only reinforces the cynicism encouraged by Labour.

We need an authoritative statement of the city's options, not only to restore public trust but to prepare its people for what lies ahead. Although the exact position is not known, the broad outlines are. The city could be very short of cash. Labour's continual manipulation of the figures and postponement of politically painful decisions mean that an austerity regime is now inevitable. Rate rises of more than 50 per cent or several thousand council redundancies remain on the agenda.

This raises Sir Trevor's second problem. He should get the regional trade union officials together and present the facts to them as soon as they are known. If he deals only with the local officials, especially those from the blue collar unions - who are vehemently opposed to the Liberals - industrial relations could become a shambles. After its recent travails that is the last thing Liverpool needs.

But all the Liberals' long-term options are painful. They could struggle on with Labour's budget, scrimping and saving, hoping to end the year not too deeply in the red. But this death by a thousand cuts, actually practised by Labour



Neglect and decay in a city strapped for cash

Liverpool: the Liberals' albatross

for the last two years, will guarantee a debilitating conflict with the unions. The legacy of bitter disputes over economics and privatization during previous Liberal administrations make the tactic managerially unattractive and electorally dangerous. Political memories in Liverpool are long.

Sir Trevor could try what he wants to do anyway: cut public housing and its financial drain. Clearly he will examine every Labour contract to see which he can break without risk of a lawsuit. He could try to sell off some council housing. This would reduce the debt charges, ease the revenue burden and might also pay off some of the £60 million deferred purchases. It would achieve what the Liberals have always wanted - a cut in the council's direct labour organization, which is highly inefficient and makes a loss. Labour had to engage in extensive creative accounting to pay its wages without putting up the rates.

But none of this is easy. It would cause havoc with the unions. More crucially, a sale requires a purchaser. It is not clear that private developers would take much of the stock and sales to individual tenants would have

little impact. Housing associations might be interested in buying some of the stock, but the Housing Corporation would have to put up the money. This is unlikely since it would only shift the debt from Liverpool's ratepayers to the taxpayer. As for rent increases, this has been a highly charged political issue since the Liberals raised rents beyond government guidelines in the 1970s.

Council services are a particular problem area. Some savings might be made through greater efficiency, but the workers would cause trouble. Not only are services expensive but of poor quality, to reduce expenditure on them would make them even worse and make Liverpool even less attractive to the property owning middle-classes so dear to the government. Cuts in the council's workforce would increase unemployment in a city with 60,000 already out of work.

Sir Trevor could throw himself at the feet of Mrs Thatcher. She will receive him if he gets a favourable result in the May elections. But the government cannot write off the city's debts; or concede on the block grant without breaching the dam. Any kind of concessions to Liverpool would infuriate other Labour cities who

resent what they see as Liverpool's special pleading. Many are also up to their eyes in creative accounting debts. Any government help means aiding an Alliance administration in the run-up to a general election. It might ease the city's burden through the back door by increasing its housing funds or restoring the £3 million urban programme money withheld this year because Labour would not co-operate. But the marginal sums would make little impact on the scale of the problem.

The government's problem is that now that Militant is temporarily out of the way in Liverpool, the next step must be Mrs Thatcher's rather than Neil Kinnock's. The Labour council's political campaign was a disaster. But its technical arguments still have merit. The city has been financially penalized by the government's grants system. Liberal Liverpool was fiscally conservative in the 1970s when others were profligate. But in the 1980s the penalty system punished Liverpool and rewarded big Labour spenders. That was the original cause of the financial argument. Nor does the government grant take adequate account of the scale of the city's population loss, its economic deprivation or the erosion of its rateable base since the last revaluation in 1973. Overall government expenditure policy pays little heed to the fact that, as EEC surveys demonstrate, Liverpool is virtually at the bottom of Europe's urban league table.

Most important, Sir Trevor could argue, with the Audit Commission, that the grant system's insistence on annual targets and penalties is perverse and produces irrational financial behaviour; the system prevents long-term political and financial incentives being made to get the city on an even keel and it encourages creative accounting as a substitute for policy. If the government insists on austerity, which I would reject, at least, like the IMF, it could offer a five-year package of measures. It would specify what Liverpool needs to do and what the government will offer in return if it does. The city still might not like the figures but it would at least know where it was going. The government will not give this, of course.

Liverpool will endure continuing financial uncertainty to compound its economic decline and political insecurities. After the catastrophe of the past four years, Liverpool desperately needs a period of stability. But government strategies are likely to cause even further instability. Sir Trevor has a hard road to hoe.

The author is Director of the Centre for Urban Studies at Liverpool University.

David Watt

Russia first, dogma last

A few weekends ago at Chequers, Mrs Thatcher gave herself a tutorial on the Soviet Union in preparation for her visit to Moscow at the end of next week. The guests included the Foreign Secretary, two or three officials and a handful of academic experts.

The main question to which the Prime Minister apparently wanted an answer was: "Will Gorbachev change Soviet Russia into a quite different society?" Needless to say, she got some diverse replies. The majority, with the right-wing academics in the lead, said: "Probably not." The minority, including a couple of academics and one official, said: "Perhaps." The Prime Minister, having dutifully taken notes of the discussions, then told her teachers in no uncertain terms what they ought to have said - which boiled down to two propositions: "Socialism is an unmitigated evil" and "THEY never change."

This scene, hilariously typical of Margaret Thatcher's characteristic virtues and vices, also illustrates the tendency of everyone who comments on Gorbachev to read his (or her) hopes and fears into the analysis. The right are secretly horrified that their fox may get shot, or perhaps turned into a domestic pet. Hence their temptation to say that because not enough has changed, nothing has really changed at all. The left are desperate to be relieved of the Soviet albatross that has hung round the neck of coexistence "progress" for 40 years; they therefore hail the most trivial relaxations as further evidence of the dawn of genuine democracy in Russia.

The true situation surely lies somewhere in between. The right are almost certainly correct in saying that Gorbachev has not the slightest desire to allow the party to lose control of Soviet life; and if he had, he could not bring this about without losing his job, and possibly his head, in the process. His object is much more modest - to restore some dynamism to the Soviet economy by shaking up the bureaucracy, by introducing highly restricted elements of "openness", competition and market discipline, by cracking down on corruption and alcoholism, and by reducing the immediate claims of the defence budget. At the same time, the left are entitled to point out that these reforms are welcome in themselves and to speculate hopefully that if they are ever put fully into place they may just create a momentum which will eventually carry the country far beyond them.

Yet from the West's point of view, this debate, though fascinating, is largely academic. To get even a limited Gorbachev programme successfully past the deeply vested interests which it challenges will take years, at best. And even if it does go through eventually, the crucial fact is that it will not make the Soviet Union much easier for the rest of the world to deal with.

This is another point at which political preconceptions take their toll. The right, particularly in America, is so obsessed with its

hatred of communism, as such, that it tends to assume that it is the mainspring of Soviet foreign policy. The soft left persists in its perennial belief (curiously suspended in the case of the villainous US) that open, democratic societies are bound to be pacific; the Russian "people" will naturally want to make peace if only they are given more influence.

It is pretty clear that both these views are distorted. Within the Soviet Union, Marxist-Leninist doctrine is no longer anyone's prime mover since nobody really believes in it - not even Gorbachev, who hardly mentions it. It has become, in practice, little more than a useful additional prop to a self-justifying control system of great independent strength and hierarchic rigidity. It matters that the party believes in its own leading position, of course, but that belief hardly has the status of a dynamic faith.

The same applies in the international field. Communist theory serves as a buttress to the assertion of Soviet power against the heretical Chinese. It also provides a useful underpinning of the Brezhnev doctrine: countries cannot be allowed to leave the socialist camp once they are in it. But these ideological considerations are neither what Soviet foreign policy is really about, nor are they what justifies the Afghan war, the subjugation of Eastern Europe or the vast defence budget in the eyes of the Soviet establishment and (so far as they matter) the Russian people.

It might be a bit harsh to say today, as Leszek Kolakowski justifiably claimed at the end of the Brezhnev era, "The real ideological channel of communication with the population is by now not communism but nationalism: national glory, the growth of the empire, racism, xenophobia and only very thinly disguised anti-semitism". Some of these fevers have subsided a bit in the last six years. Nevertheless, what Mrs Thatcher has to bear in mind is not that Gorbachev is a socialist, but that he is a Russian leader. This means his main preoccupation is with permanent Russian national interests and objectives.

Naturally these may be affected by his domestic priorities - he needs for the time being to cut defence expenditure and he is obviously sophisticated enough to interpret "security" more flexibly than his predecessors. We may likewise welcome his reforms for the limited relief they bring to the human spirit. But we should face the fact that if they succeed in their main objective, the principal effect, for the foreseeable future, will probably be to make the Soviet Union more formidable without altering the old socialist aims a jot. I do not happen to think that these include the enslavement of the world; security comes first, then widening influence, status and superpower parity. But these are the pretensions that have worried the rest of the world since the early 19th century and they will continue to worry us, I guess, until the end of the 21st and beyond, whoever rules Russia.

Frank Johnson in the Commons

Arresting time after the budget

With both taxes and unemployment falling, and an election coming, the recent rise in the crime statistics is the one consolation for the Labour Party in a dark world.

This is especially so since the Conservatives are the law-and-order party. So, in a massive operation, planned days in advance, Labour members drafted into the Metropolis from all parts of the country swooped on Mrs Thatcher yesterday to question her about links between Tory policies and crime.

The raid, timed to coincide with questions to the Prime Minister, was led by Chief Supt. Neil Kinnock. He approached Mrs Thatcher while she was at a dispatch box in central London. There is so much noise going on in this part of the city at this time of the day that it was impossible to hear everything that was said.

But presumably Mr Kinnock showed his badge, produced his warrant and began by saying something along the lines of good afternoon, madam. I wonder if I might ask you a few questions? Being an outwardly respectable, middle-class married woman, she apparently decided to behave as if she had nothing to hide. Certainly, officer, do come in. Can I offer you a drink?

No thank you, m'am, not while I'm on duty. Now, about these recent crime statistics.

Through the hubbub, Mrs Thatcher was probably not to be denying that she had got a top job in 1979 partly on the strength of a company prospectus offering the public more law and order.

After a while, Mr Kinnock could be heard asking: "Does the Right hon Lady agree with the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, Sir Kenneth Newman, that one of the major causes for the rise in serious crime in recent years has been unemployment?" At this point Mr Kinnock's inquiries were drowned by noise. So far as we could tell, Mrs Thatcher seemed to be affecting an air of I don't know what you're talking about, Chief Supt. Kinnock. Surely there must have been some mistake. My un-

employment statistics have never been involved in any crime.

By the time the noise subsided, Mrs Thatcher could be heard resisting arrest. "The Right hon Gentleman must have run out of questions," she could be heard telling the simple Welsh copper, who after all only had a job to do. "I answered that question on Tuesday, I will repeat what I said then. It is a sad fact that the peak age of offenders is 15. That is below school leaving age. So it can have little to do with unemployment."

"Unemployment in the 1930s was a much higher percentage of the working population than it is now. If what the Right hon Gentleman is saying was correct, crime in the 1930s would have been higher than it is now, whereas it was lower."

Later, the other officers on the Labour benches kept popping up to question Mrs Thatcher on the same subject. This tended to give the operation a slapstick, Keystone effect. They would be emerging through the floor, or out of the cupboard, next. "Is she aware that during the 15 minutes she is answering these questions, a total of 110 crimes will have been committed in this country?" asked Mr Alfred Dubs (Battersea, Lab) from the Metropolitan force. Mrs Thatcher replied that it was a pity Labour had not voted in support of the Tory proposal to refer lenient sentences to the Court of Appeal, and in favour of increased maximum sentences. "They have no standing to criticize this Government," she said.

Mr Clive Solley (Hammer-smith, Lab) included in his inquiries the question: "If the Prime Minister is genuinely concerned to increase respect for law and order, will she take the opportunity to comment on the activities of the hon member for Billericay (Mr Harvey Proctor)?" Mr Solley seemed to be from Labour's Serious Crimes Squad. Mrs Thatcher did not reply to that because the Speaker interrupted him to say that members could only reflect on the conduct of other members by a motion on the order paper.

Who next will take on Haughey?

Dublin He is going to be a difficult act to follow, and most of the 82 parliamentarians who meet in Dublin tomorrow to elect a successor to Dr Garret FitzGerald as leader of Fine Gael know it. So too do the three contenders and the governing Fianna Fail party, which is viewing the proceedings with scarcely concealed motives of self-interest.

FitzGerald's sudden resignation after his party's general election defeat - he had been its leader for ten years and prime minister for six - has deprived it of one of its most potent electoral assets in an age in which personalities and television dominate general election campaigns. His great rival, Charles Haughey, was gracious in his plaudits, though he would be less than human if he did not recognize the political advantage to himself.

Genuine regret in FitzGerald's party at his departure has turned to relief that moves to force him out were unnecessary. The desire to avoid "bloodletting" has extended to the succession contest, being conducted with an air of moral superiority that infuriates the eternally feuding Fianna Fail. A three-line whip has been imposed on the 82 deputies, senators and Euro MPs ordering them not to comment publicly on their preferences, while FitzGerald has been absent in the US and will return to cast his vote only three hours before the meeting begins. His valedictory speech has been combed for clues about his personal preferences for the next leader and the party's direction.



Barry Bruton Dukes

Its emphasis on his successor's age, his capacity for making changes in the medium term and the ringing declaration that there could be no return to "suffocating conservatism" appeared to signal support for one of the younger candidates over his 58-year-old deputy, Peter Barry.

An uncertain political situation caused by a minority government is complicating everyone's calculations. Given the divided state of the opposition parties, FitzGerald clearly believes that Haughey can remain in power for some time, but others fear an early election, and this may swing support to Barry. Respected as an elder statesman of the party, he is viewed as a compromise between the conservative and liberal wings. He also appears as a compromise between the younger contestants, John Bruton, who is 39, and the 41-year-old Alan Dukes, perhaps signifying a return to more traditional ways after FitzGerald's flirtation with social democratic ideas. Other ambitious politicians, whose hats are not in the ring this time, are loath

to see either of the younger claimants win, since this could settle the leadership issue for at least 10 years.

Barry has pledged to continue with the party's social reformist ideas, but, at the age of 58, his drive and energy are being questioned. Superficially FitzGerald has left the party as he found it - in need of renewal after losing 19 seats and seeing his proportion of the national vote collapse to its lowest level in 30 years. However, organizationally it is much stronger, with hard-working deputies and an ability to maximize and manage the traditional Fine Gael vote. The younger men are stuck in the need for a long haul of 10 years and making the party more attractive to younger and middle-class voters who have deserted it for the untrodden Democratic. Bruton, a wealthy farmer, has espoused radical right-wing economic ideas but is less interested in social change and suffers from having failed to get one budget through the Dail.

Dukes was an economic student taught by FitzGerald, who brought

him into the party and made him a minister on his first day in the Dail. His legendary calm has led to the nickname "Cool Hand Dukes" and an image of a cold technocrat. On social issues he is close to the FitzGerald mould while frequent meals in the self-service cafeteria at the Dail and a sympathetic back-bencher. He readily admits he would be a "FitzGerald Mark II".

Fianna Fail is hoping the choice will be Barry, since it believes he would be no match for Haughey. Both Bruton and Dukes, on the other hand, are acknowledged as good debaters and television performers. Further, their youthfulness would be contrasted with the 61-year-old Haughey, which could prove important in a nation where half the population is under 25.

Whoever is elected will take over a party now used to winning rather than losing. It may well be that after the intellectual excitement of FitzGerald, Fine Gael hopes for a calmer approach, but it is unlikely that it will return completely to the old-fashioned conservative values that it espoused before 1977.

The new leader will have an enormous task in preventing Fianna Fail from achieving a majority in the Dail, keeping the Progressive Democrats from eating further into the Fine Gael vote while attempting to win back the 19 seats lost - and achieving the party's long-held ambition of overthrowing Fianna Fail as Ireland's major political organization.

Richard Ford





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## STARTING AGAIN

A riot, said Dr Martin Luther King, is an expression of a people who have not been listened to. If he had been alive to witness the appalling violence at Broadwater Farm eighteen months ago, he would surely have qualified that judgement. PC Keith Blacklock spent much of his time listening to the people he met in the course of his work on the beat. He was horribly murdered during that rioting and three of his killers have now been convicted and sentenced.

He was killed by the evil actions of individuals. In committing these dreadful acts, PC Blacklock's murderers were influenced by their ability to see him not as a man but as a type. Notwithstanding the individuals rightly brought to account, his killing is the end product of a type of thinking which divides people into faceless categories: "blacks", "policemen", "whites". His killers were able to see him not as a helpless human but as a vulnerable representative of something they hated.

If this episode has any lessons to teach, it is that it should mark the moment at which the citizens of Britain's big cities should realize where sloganeering warfare between parts of a community and its police can lead. It can produce an atmosphere of intimidation in which the most valuable citizens of a neighbourhood are afraid to speak out against spokespeople who have cornered the local market in anti-police rhetoric. Prosecuting counsel at the Old Bailey noted with some bitterness that only one witness to the murder ever came forward.

It has already produced, at least in London, a culture of hatred against the police which is being systematically handed down to children in certain schools. It produced a local authority which became so wrapped up in its own anti-police nonsense that it obstructed the efforts of the detectives investigating the killing of their colleague.

This must stop. The most lasting remedy lies in the hands of local people. It is they who elect councillors, it is they who belong to the community organisations which wield some influence over youngsters at times of tension and it is they who belong to parent-teacher associations with some leverage over civic teaching in schools. The future of places like Broadwater Farm lies on the small bridges which can be built between police and people even in the aftermath of riot.

There is a commonplace reply to such arguments that they are one-sided and give the public no redress if policemen and policewomen misbehave in the course of their duty. Rumour and counter-rumour about a disputed incident was the spark which ignited the Tottenham housing estate. There is room for continuing argument about internal inquiries, complaints and discipline, training and relations with ethnic minorities. The Policy Studies Institute report on the policing of London, to cite only the most thorough recent work on the subject, made clear that policemen under modern pressures are not perfect.

But they will not be moved any distance towards perfection.

tion by having their colleagues hacked to death. Valid arguments about police practice cannot be held or heard amidst the din of a housing estate on fire. The same PSI report made clear that the problems between the police and black people could be exaggerated and that remedies were not impossible.

The disturbance at Broadwater Farm may be represented as a cry of people who have otherwise gone unheard or as a coerced response to police "repression". In truth, it was neither. A sowing of police-community relations was grotesquely distorted and amplified by a tiny fraction of the residents of the housing estate. Acting from a variety of criminal and political motives, they were united by their complete disinterest in the quality of police-community relations. The only people who wish to be rid of the police altogether are those who wish to be left alone to prey on others thus rendered more vulnerable.

Once the riot had taken place, the motives of those who had taken part were either commended or went uncondemned by local politicians and leaders who were helping build the myth of police "oppression" and the siege mentality which goes with it.

It is those myths and mindsets which are at the heart of making communities such as Broadwater Farm work in the future. So long as those who have influence in the community are determined to keep the police — or any other form of authority, public or private — at arms length, it will be a damaged community.

## GOING BELOW THREE MILLION?

It has not taken long for the optimism on jobs expressed by the Chancellor, Mr Nigel Lawson, in his Budget to be substantiated. Perhaps he knew something that we did not. At any rate the total number of unemployed fell by more last month than in any previous month since records began.

This is certainly good news. It means that the pause in the downward trend in unemployment in January has been offset by an exceptional reduction in February so that unemployment has now been falling by an average of around 25,000 a month for the last six months. If this rate of progress continues, there is a chance that unemployment could fall below 3 million in time for a June election.

Just as important as the fall in the overall numbers is the experience in different parts of the country. Here, too, the news is not discouraging with every region experiencing a reduction. The North and the North-West were among the less fortunate with a reduction of only 0.1 per cent of the workforce. But Wales did well with a reduction of 0.3 per cent.

and Scotland kept pace with the South-East at 0.2 per cent.

Given the importance of the unemployment figures it is a pity that there is relatively little information on the effect of the Government's Re-start scheme. This has achieved a genuine revival of motivation among some of those out of work helping them, through job clubs or by encouraging their own initiative, to resume the search for work — and in some cases to find it. It is important to know how much of the fall in unemployment reflects an underlying improvement in the economy and how much a higher success rate in matching the jobless to jobs.

Re-start is clearly not the whole story. The Treasury's latest forecast contained in the Budget "Red Book" presents a convincing picture of continuing output growth during 1987 with particularly attractive opportunities for manufacturing. The fall in the pound during the course of last year has improved the competitiveness of British industry in exactly the same way as the rise in the yen and the Deutschmark has put the Japanese and Germans in difficulties.

ness and Germans in difficulties.

In addition, productivity has been rising faster in Britain than for many years. Firms have learned during the years of recession to be parsimonious in the matter of labour costs, and they have not yet unlearned it now that output is rising. Yesterday's figures show that in the three months to January productivity in manufacturing rose by 4.5 per cent over the same period a year earlier. Pay increases continue at a relatively high level, but the growth in productivity is still enough to bring the growth in unit labour costs down from 5 per cent last year to 1.5 per cent this year.

This makes for a relatively buoyant outlook for exports which the Treasury expects to grow next year by 4 per cent in volume. High profitability will support a higher rate of business investment, while consumer demand is expected to remain buoyant. The encouraging thing is that industry seems in a much better position to take advantage of this growth in demand. As a result, we are seeing the return of jobs to this country which at one time were lost abroad.

## BP FOR THE PUBLIC

It has been the undignified lot of British Petroleum to act as a cash box for its principal shareholder, the British Government. Sales were made in 1979 and 1983 to top up flagging asset sales before the privatization programme moved into top gear. These raised some £350 million for 12 per cent of Britain's oil multinational. Even the last Labour government was happy to make a large profit selling BP shares bought by the Bank of England at a knock-down price to keep the other former leading shareholder, Burmah Oil, solvent.

It had been widely predicted that more BP shares would be sold this year after legal problems delayed the privatization of the Thames Water Authority. It nevertheless came as something of a surprise when Mr Norman Lamont, the Financial Secretary, announced late on Wednesday that the Government now planned to sell the whole of the remaining 32 per cent stake during the coming financial year.

This stake is currently worth £4.6 billion, far more than is needed to meet the target of £5 billion asset sales for 1987-88. The expected privatization of Rolls-Royce and British Airways, as well as further monies due from British Gas, British Airways and British Telecom, should raise some £4 billion,

although the timetable for the two new privatization sales could be upset by the timing of a general election.

If the sale of the BP sale is a surprise, however, it is a welcome one. Given the many fund-raising options, it clearly marks a change of policy by the Government towards British Petroleum. By choosing to sell all remaining stakes in one year, the Treasury has effectively decided to stop using this important asset as a cash box and transfer it to private investors in a more positive way.

If it is now generally accepted that British governments are incompetent to run great enterprises, then there seems even less sense in their owning large chunks as passive investors. BP may have proved a profitable investment and the Government's initial role was important, but the Treasury is not an investment institution and there is no case for borrowing money that costs more than the dividend returns from BP.

Although the Government has the right to have two directors on the BP board, they have no brief to use the government's shareholding to influence management. And in practice, should the Government wish to direct the oil company's behaviour for urgent reasons of national security, it would do so by order

rather than by boardroom power.

Unscrambling this historical relationship makes sense for the company, which has had to live with this anomalous status and the ever-present overhang of shares on the stock market. Selling such a large holding might also be used as another important opportunity to promote wider share ownership. Back in 1983, when the last sale was made, this vital development of the privatization programme awaited the flotation of British Telecom. Since then, privatization has played the dominant role in spreading individual shareholding to more than 8 million people.

Selling almost a third of BP is not true privatization, like the sale of British Telecom or British Gas. The shares are already available and the company would probably like to see a large proportion of the Government's stake sold abroad, particularly in Japan, to reflect the group's international operations. To slant the sale to professional investors, however, would be to miss an important opportunity. Previous sales have already made BP a widely held company with 250,000 shareholders. It would be well worth the Government taking the extra trouble to market much of its BP stake to the new class of small investor.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Betting change a threat to racing

From the Editor of the Racing Post  
Sir, While the Jockey Club should be congratulated on spearheading the successful campaign to abolish on-course betting, their failure to appreciate the implications for racing of the proposed satellite service to betting shops, which you have previously featured in *The Times* (February 18, 19) is disturbing.

The Racecourse Association is on the brink of signing a contract with Satellite Information Services, of which 45 per cent is owned by the big four bookmakers, Ladbrooke's, Hill's, Coral's and Mecca. The benefit to these and other bookmakers will be entirely disproportionate to the size of their original investment and at the expense of the racing industry.

Betting turnover should increase dramatically when all shops can receive the proposed satellite service, and so will bookmakers' profits. If they are allowed to carry live an identical number of races from both horses and greyhounds, the income of the Horserace Betting Levy Board, which now receives £25 million a year to service racing, will not increase proportionately.

Turnover (and therefore levy revenue) from horserace meetings not broadcast by satellite is likely to decrease, while the relative proportion of greyhound betting

will rise. Because bookmakers pay no levy on the latter, their trading profits will soar, but levy income is likely to diminish in real terms.

The Racecourse Association could link with Racecourse Technical Services (a wholly-owned subsidiary of the levy board) to sell the satellite service to betting shops.

The industry might have to wait a year or more while the partnership acquired the technical expertise to provide live satellite racing, but the long-term benefit to the sport would be considerable and punters would be reassured by using a service wholly independent of bookmaking interests.

In the early sixties legislation gave the high street betting opportunity to private bookmakers, and consequently they receive over 10 times more revenue (net of betting tax) than the levy board. The Office of Fair Trading is already looking at some aspects of bookmakers' activity, but on this issue is sitting on the sidelines. Can the Jockey Club, who license racecourses, give a lead to ensure that the mistakes of 25 years ago are not repeated?

Yours sincerely,  
GRAHAM ROCK, Editor,  
Racing Post,  
Cannon House,  
112-120 Coombe Lane,  
Raynes Park, SW20,  
March 19.

## Future of Alliance

From Dr Stephen Haseler

Sir, During recent weeks, and especially following the SDP success in the Greenwich by-election, arguments about the future role of the SDP have become both more acute and public. One such is that the time cannot long be delayed before the SDP merges with the Liberal Party.

What many voters may not fully understand is that the SDP is an independent party (with an independently elected political leadership), possessing a separate constitution. It has an electoral pact with the Liberal Party, but nothing more. There have in the past been serious problems between the SDP and the Liberal Party regarding defence policy, and any serious observer of British politics would admit that these problems could easily surface again.

For this reason talk of merger is fanciful and premature. Many of those who helped found the SDP left the Labour Party because of its unacceptable defence policies and have remained deeply uneasy about the Liberal Party's continuing flirtation with unilateral nuclear disarmament. Indeed, some founding members of the SDP believe that the relationship with the Liberals was flawed from the beginning. Even so, we have gone along with it with varying levels of enthusiasm.

However, should the Liberal Party embrace unilateral nuclear disarmament in the future then the SDP will surely not only want to merge with the Liberals but will also want to review its position about continuing the alliance and the electoral pact.

Those within the SDP who will merge with the Liberals, irrespective of their policies, and even want to use the electoral attraction of the SDP (and its leader, David Owen) to do a deal with the Labour Party, should be

aware that such a move will be bitterly resisted.

The SDP is led by principled men and women, but — it must be admitted, too — by those who lost previous political fights within the Labour movement. Consequently they should be very careful indeed about any olive branches that may now be being offered to them by the left within the Labour Party.

Sincerely yours,  
STEPHEN HASELER (former residential candidate, SDP),  
The University of Maryland,  
Baltimore County Campus,  
Department of Sociology,  
5401 Wilkens Avenue,  
Catonville, Maryland, USA,  
March 3.

## In the vernacular

From Deputy Sir Martin Le Queux

Sir, I believe that there may be a quite rational explanation of Mr Kinnock's habit, referred to by Mr James Keir (March 13), of describing his political opponents as enemies.

About 25 years ago the late Mr John Strachey, MP, attended a gathering of socialists in Dakar, to whom he gave an address on the British parliamentary system.

When I met him shortly afterwards, he told me that at the conclusion of his address an African member of the audience had approached him and said that, while listening to Mr Strachey, he had been reflecting how the title "Leader of the Opposition" could be translated into his vernacular language. He had concluded that it could only come out as "Chief of the Enemies".

Could it not be that Mr Kinnock is faced with the same difficulty in his vernacular?  
I am, Sir, yours faithfully,  
MARTIN LE QUEUX,  
Beau Desert,  
St Saviour, Jersey,  
Channel Islands,  
March 16.

## Relaxing fire rules

From Dr W. A. Swann

Sir, In *The Times* of March 5 you reported, under the heading "Government defeat on fire safety Bill", that an amendment increasing the frequency of inspection of sports grounds for fire safety had been "pushed through" by Labour peers.

There is clearly an awareness in the two Houses of the need to reduce the 800 fatalities caused by fire each year in the UK and it seems reasonable to assume that reductions would result from increases in the fire safety requirements for buildings. However, the Department of the Environment is proposing a review of the 1985 Building Regulations, part of which puts forward recommendations that fire safety standards in buildings be lowered, the principle being a reduction in some minimum required periods of fire-resistance.

The number of fatalities caused

by fire in the UK (where the new proposals move in the general direction of relaxation) is higher than from other causes considered in the proposals, yet in these other areas the recommendations are that standards be maintained and tightened.

Reviews of fire safety (and other) standards in buildings must have the prime objective of saving life, indeed, this is the stated purpose of the regulations. With the number of fatalities being suffered in the UK under the current regulations it is difficult to understand how relaxation of standards and control will improve the situation.

Views on the Department of the Environment's proposals must be communicated before March 31. Yours faithfully,  
W. A. SWANN (Director,  
research and development),  
Cape Building Products Limited,  
Iver Lane,  
Uxbridge, Middlesex,  
March 6.

## Plant blight

From the President of the Social Democratic Party

Sir, As a past Chairman of the Arts Council I was surprised to read in *The Times* ("Pruning the Garden", March 14) a pronouncement by a prominent member of it which appears to pre-judge the future of the Royal Opera House before the council has considered the three-year plan which it invited the house to submit.

As a present board member of Covent Garden I should fear, if Professor Peacock's views were endorsed by his colleagues, that we could not expect a fair hearing. The last thing Covent Garden wants is an extra share of Arts Council resources at the expense of other arts companies.

Our problems, though on a bigger scale, are no different from theirs. It is said that Professor Peacock, instead of helping us all by making what he calls the "respectable case for much more spending on the creative and performed arts", sets one section of the arts against another. Yours faithfully,  
SHIRLEY WILLIAMS,  
President,  
Social Democratic Party,  
4 Cowley Street, SW1,  
March 11.

## Garden marketing

From Lord Gibson

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SHIRLEY WILLIAMS,  
President,  
Social Democratic Party,  
4 Cowley Street, SW1,  
March 11.

## Hazards on the journey to UK

From Mr K. Nathan

Sir, I read your report (February 25) on the sad story of the plight of the batch of Sri Lankan Tamil refugees who arrived in London recently. I am glad that some dignity has now been introduced by the High Court ruling that the refugees have a right to challenge in court the action by the Home Office to expel them.

It is a pity that, in a country with noble traditions and a history of leadership in matters concerning human rights and the dignity of man, bureaucratic institutions that inflict degrading actions on people seeking the safety of its shores still exist.

I am a Sri Lankan Italian who frequently visits Europe, including the UK (I studied in the UK). With my Italian passport I naturally attract attention, but only in the UK have I been subject to a line of questioning tantamount to harassment.

One occasion the immigration officer insisted on my showing a ticket to leave the UK, quite contrary to the spirit of the EEC treaty and immigration practices in other European countries. No other country in Europe has ever asked me any question and immigration officers have always acted in a dignified and respectful manner.

I believe that the treatment by UK immigration officers of foreigners is more than a case of over-zealous enforcement of immigration laws. There are strong indications of prejudice and even frustration at the law. I sincerely hope that the Home Secretary (I have written to him) will investigate the UK immigration office and rid the service of officers with poor attitudes and judgement and appoint officers who have personal tact and a strong sense of decency and dignity regardless of their personal feelings. Sincerely yours,  
K. NATHAN,  
10314 Collingham Drive,  
Fairfax, VA 22032, USA.

## Everest supreme

From Dr Charles Warren

Sir, And so the Americans would like us to think that the mountain K2 may be higher than Mount Everest (report, March 9). Yet somehow or other I can't believe it. But if this proved to be true, what a pity! What a blow this would be to the whole romantic history of Himalayan mountaineering over the last half-century, and how sad it would be to see the eponymous Everest replaced by the banal name of K2 as the highest mountain on earth.

It is all very well for investigative journalists to go on trying to expose ultimate truths. But surely they should not always do so at the expense of all romance. Who really wants Mallory and Irvine to be found? And who wants Everest to be demoted?

When I came away from Everest for the third time in 1938 I wrote: "For myself I had no regrets at the outcome of the venture, only a sense of disappointment that we had failed to accomplish more. Perhaps secretly I was even a little glad to know that the highest mountain on earth, the one that so many mountaineers had striven in vain to approach, still remained to challenge another band of mountaineers."

Sometimes it is nice for things to remain as they are. Yours etc,  
CHARLES WARREN,  
As from: The Alpine Club,  
74 South Audley Street, W1.

## Haven for tigers

From Sir John Curle

Sir, Mr Martin Booth (March 17) proposes that the Sai Kung East Country Park, in Hong Kong, should become a reserve for the Chinese tiger. "The potential displacement of human population is tiny..."

Does he not realize that the country parks are essential weekend and holiday outlets for the teeming millions of flat-dwellers in urban Hong Kong and Kowloon? I am, Sir, your obedient servant,  
JOHN CURLE,  
Appleby House,  
Nr Aston - Walls,  
Daventry, Northamptonshire.

## Search for a cure

From Professor Emeritus G. W. Dimbleby

Sir, Your television critic, Alexandra Schulman, in reviewing the Ehrlichs' programme, *Earth: The Shadow of Humanity* (March 11), ends by hoping that the "near-fair prognosis will be followed up by the suggestion of a cure". It is the standard reaction to any exposition of the state of the world's environment that people expect ecologists, who are able to see the way things are going, to come up with a cure.

It remains to be seen how the Ehrlichs will develop this theme, but we know the causes, so the cure must start with less of these. Until viewers, listeners, readers, and above all those who lead us along these ways, are willing to modify the life-style that has produced this mess, then we have no right to protest at "gloom and doom". Human misery already abounds and will get worse, but it seems an injustice that those whose life-style contributes to the world's malaise are on the whole not those who have to suffer the resultant misery. If they were there might be more hope of a "cure". Yours faithfully,  
GEOFFREY DIMBLEBY,  
34 House Lane, Sandridge,  
St Albans, Hertfordshire.

## ON THIS DAY

MARCH 20 1871

In protest against the harsh terms imposed on France at the end of the Franco-Prussian war (March 1) revolutionary factions in Paris had risen in arms and proclaimed a commune.

CIVIL WAR IN PARIS.  
(From Our Special Correspondent.)  
PARIS, MARCH 18.

Turning up one of the by-ways which leads into the heart of Belleville I found I had passed the last sentry. The Regulars were no longer visible, the street was deserted except by wandering groups, windows were stealthily opened, people peered timidly from the cracks of doors, and watched a solitary stranger with evident suspicion and dislike. At last, in a narrow lane, I came suddenly upon a sentry. No Regular he, but a full-blown insurgent. "On no passez pas," he said, he gruffly, "at least without arms if you want to pass, go and put on your uniform and bring your musket, then you may pass." "Why, do you intend to fight?" "Sacrebleu, do you suppose we are going to allow these canaille to take our cannon without firing a shot? Wait here if you wish to see how we can fight." At this moment his face changed, and turning round I perceived a company of Regulars advancing straight towards us. At the same moment a number of National Guards rushed to their arms and closed round the sentry I had been speaking to. The moment was critical. Was there a doorway handy, and had either side pushed enough to fire at fifty paces? Such were the ideas which flashed upon one at the moment. At that moment a door opened slowly, and without asking leave I dashed in, nearly upsetting a young woman whose curiosity had induced her to peep from behind a door. I was opening the chink we looked out, and lo, the fire-eating sentry threw his butt in the air and shouted wildly "Vive la ligne!" Then all the National Guards who surrounded him threw their butts in the air and followed his lead, and the company turned their butts up, but said nothing; both sides were evidently prepared to do anything rather than shed each other's blood; but whether the party of order had fraternized with the party of disorder, or vice versa, was somewhat difficult to make out. I suspected the latter, for the officer in command got very red, and called his men back. Finally the captain got his men together, doing so in an uneasy, timid manner, and I determined to follow them.

Running after the company of the Line, I passed along a narrow street deserted by every one, and suddenly came out upon the open space in front of the Mairie of Belleville. Here was drawn up a peloton of cavalry, about two companies of the Line, three mousquetaires, and a battery of artillery. I pressed a line company was forced back so as to enclose the group in which I happened to find myself; instantly there was whispered fraternization. "What canaille all your officers are," said one. "True," said a soldier; "there is one said that deserves to be shot, but that man next to him is a brave man; he is a lieutenant." "Ah," said a woman, "they are sacré oldies, all of them, especially the old ones. They can fight against French fathers of families, but not against Prussians." Just then my curiosity was excited by a chinking noise, which seemed to come from beyond a group of several hundred soldiers. Mounting on a large stone, so as to look over them, I observed a number of National Guards engaged in making a barricade within three yards of the first line of soldiers. The sight was so astounding that I could not help making a gentlemanlike-looking officer near me why it was allowed. He flushed up a little angrily, and said that it was a dangerous place to be in, and a still more dangerous time to ask questions which did not concern me, and to which, therefore, it was not necessary for him to reply. Thus snubbed, and more puzzled than ever, I retired into a small tavern.

## Reward for service

From Sir Anthony Grant, MP for Cambridgeshire South-West (Conservative)

Sir, Whilst in no way exonerating breach of a solemn undertaking do you not find it astonishing that someone responsible for State secrets like Mr Wright received a mere £2,000 a year pension?

Is it not yet another case of the national interest suffering through the parsimony of the Treasury? Yours faithfully,  
ANTHONY GRANT,  
House of Commons,  
March 14.

## Hot under the collar

From Lieutenant-Commander M. J. Washer, RN

Sir, Mr Truelove (March 12) and Mr Cockshutt (March 18) should consider joining the Royal Navy. I enjoy having my stiff collars laundered by expert Chinese laundrymen on my present ship for a mere 50 pence! Yours faithfully,  
M. J. WASHER,  
HMS Glasgow,  
BFP Ships,  
March 18.

## From Mr J. W. P. Richardson

Sir, The Scots obviously appreciate white-collar workers. There is a firm in Glasgow who do my stiff collars for 40p each, plus postage — and they provide a box!

Yours faithfully,  
J. RICHARDSON,  
Barrow House,  
Barrow,  
Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk.













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**We should be talking to each other.**



Court of Appeal

## Football club must pay for policing

**Harris v Sheffield United Football Club Ltd**  
Before Lord Justice Kerr, Lord Justice Neill and Lord Justice Balcombe  
[Judgment March 19]

The provision of police officers to attend inside the ground of the Sheffield United Football Club at Bramall Lane on the occasions when football matches were played there, was the provision of "special police services" within the meaning of section 15(1) of the Police Act 1964 and the Chief Constable of the South Yorkshire Police was thus entitled to require the club to pay for such attendances.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment dismissing an appeal by the club from the Queen's Bench Division (The Times April 4, 1986) which allowed a claim by Mr John Charles Harris, against the club for £51,665 plus interest for police services provided between August 1982 and November 1983.

Mr John Griffiths, QC and Mr J. M. D. Chapple for the club; Mr David Bentley, QC and Mr W. B. Phillips for the police authority.

LORD JUSTICE NEILL said that the police authority's case was that the attendance of police officers at the club's matches constituted "special police services" for which it was entitled to charge the club.

For the club it was said that such attendance was necessary for the maintenance of law and order and to protect life and property and that by attending the police were merely carrying out their public duty.

Further, the club argued, since October 1983 it had not for the purpose of section 15(1) "required" the provision of any police services beyond those which the police were required to provide in pursuance of their duty to the public.

"Special police services" were nowhere defined. Clearly section 15(1) gave statutory authority for a long-established practice whereby police officers have been made available to carry out functions at private premises in return for payment to the relevant authority.

In the forefront of the club's argument were the principles laid down by the House of Lords in *Glasbrook Bros Ltd v Glamorgan County Council* ((1925) AC 270) - a case concerning the right of a police authority to make a charge for billeting police on colliery premises during a strike.

The House ruled by a majority that a charge could be made if the amount of protection requested by the colliery owners exceeded that which the senior police officer reasonably considered to be necessary. But there were clear statements in the speeches that if the scale of protection was no more than that which the police thought to be necessary no charge could properly be made.

In past years football crowds had decreased but their behaviour had deteriorated, some being particularly unruly, aggressive and disruptive. The result was that increased numbers of officers attended inside football grounds and the emphasis

of the policing had changed, the main function being the maintenance of law and order.

The club accepted that it had a duty to safeguard both players and spectators. But it emphasized that the presence of the police was necessary to maintain law and order and to protect life and property. It was unthinkable, Mr Griffiths said, that a League match could take place without the presence of the police and plainly a chief constable would take steps to prevent a match from taking place if the club declined to request a police presence.

The authority argued that the claim for payment could be justified on several grounds:

1. *Glasbrook's* case recognized that payments were permissible if special arrangements were made for police to attend at such events as weddings, race meetings and sporting contests.

2. Although a chief constable was under a duty to enforce the law, that duty did not and could not extend to providing every citizen with complete protection at all times and in all circumstances.

3. The disposition of the police force was a matter for the chief constable and that provided he acted reasonably, the courts would not interfere with his decisions, and

4. In any event a chief constable was entitled and indeed bound to take account of the resources, both financial and in terms of manpower available to him.

In support of those arguments Mr Bentley drew attention to a number of cases concerning how far the courts could interfere with the discretion of a chief constable to dispose of his resources as he thought best: see *R v Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis, Ex parte Blackburn* ((1969) 2 QB 118) and *R v Chief Constable of Devon and Cornwall, Ex parte CEBB* ((1982) 1 QB 438).

His Lordship said that the question for decision was not whether or how many police officers should be sent to Bramall Lane; that the presence of officers was necessary was not in dispute.

The question was whether, having regard to his general duty to enforce the law, the chief constable's provision of those officers could properly be considered as the provision of special police services.

No attempt would be made to lay down any general rules as to what were or were not "special police services". It was necessary to look at all the circumstances of an individual case.

However, the following were matters to be taken into account:

1. Were the police required to attend on private premises or in a public place? The fact that police did not in general have access to private premises suggested that *prima facie* their presence on them would be special police services.

2. Had some violence or other emergency already occurred or was it immediately imminent? The attendance of police to deal with such situations could not constitute special police services even though officers who would otherwise be off duty had to be deployed.

3. What was the nature of the event at which police attend-

ance was required? A distinction could be drawn between public events such as elections which perhaps lay at one end of a spectrum and private events such as weddings which lay at the other. In the middle might lie events such as football matches to which the public were invited and which large numbers were likely to attend.

It might also be relevant to inquire whether the event formed part of a series or was a single occasion. Regular attendance of police officers would be placing an exceptional strain on police resources, particularly if the events took place at weekends.

4. Could the necessary police protection be met without recourse to police who would otherwise be engaged on other duties or be off duty? A chief constable in deciding how to deploy his forces was subject not only to constraints imposed by the number of men available but also to financial constraints.

His Lordship said that the club had responsibilities to take all reasonable steps to ensure that games took place in conditions which did not occasion danger to anyone. Police attendance was necessary to assist the club in fulfilling its duty.

The charges that the authority sought to make related solely to the officers on duty inside the ground and not to those in the street. There was evidence that the necessary protection required substantial sums to be paid by way of police overtime.

Moreover, the arrangements were made to guard against the possibility, and for some matches the probability, of violence; officers were sent to deal with an existing emergency.

nor an immediately imminent outbreak of violence.

Looking at all those factors the conclusion was that the provision of police at Bramall Lane throughout the football season constituted the provision of special police services within the meaning of section 15(1) of the 1964 Act.

The club's remaining argument that the services of the police had not been "requested" lacked any real substance. It was not necessary to examine what steps could be taken and by whom to stop a match from taking place if the club declined to allow police to attend. In circumstances where police attended to enable a match to take place, a request for such attendance was to be implied.

Considerable sympathy went to club authorities faced with filling gates and a grave escalation of costs to meet violence which they did their best to prevent. One could only hope that the accommodation could be reached, perhaps on a national scale, to meet a threat to the club finances and to other clubs in a similar situation.

Lord Justice Balcombe delivered a concurring judgment and Lord Justice Kerr agreed.

Solicitors: Clegg & Sons, Sheffield; J. C. Harris, Pontefract.

## 'Found liable' with no contest

**Comex Hoelder Diving Ltd v Colne Fishing Co Ltd and Others**  
Before Lord Keith of Kinkel, Lord Fraser of Tullybelton, Lord Brandon of Oakbrook, Lord Ackner and Lord Goff of Chieveley  
[Speeches March 19]

A company which had settled an action had been "found liable" within the meaning of section 3(2) of the Law Reform (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Scotland) Act 1940 in that the section was not to be construed as requiring that there should have been a judicial decision upon a contested issue of liability.

However, the company could not claim a contribution under the section from other alleged wrongdoers not party to the settlement where the action had been brought outside of Scotland. The expression "any such action as aforesaid" in the section applied only to actions in a Scottish court.

The House of Lords so held in dismissing an action in the Scottish courts by Comex Hoelder Diving Ltd, who had settled an action for damages in the United States arising out of an accident in Scotland and had allowed a decree to pass against them for an agreed sum; and who then sought to recover a contribution under section 3(2) from Colne Fishing Co Ltd, Salvesen Marine (Offshore) Ltd and John Brown & Sons (Aberdeen) Ltd, who were not subject to the jurisdiction of the US courts and not party to the settlement.

The First Division of the Court of Session (Lord Emslie, Lord President, Lord Grieve and Lord McDonald (1987 SLT 13)) had affirmed Lord Mackay of Clashfern, Lord Ordinary, in repelling pleas by the appellants to have an action for contribution against them in the Scottish courts dismissed.

Section 3 of the 1940 Act provides: "(1) Where in any action of damages... arising from any... negligent acts... in pursuance of the verdict of a jury or the judgment of a court found jointly and severally liable... they shall be liable *inter se* to contribute to such damages... in such proportions as the jury or the court... may deem just."

"(2) Where any person has paid any damages... in which he has been found liable in any such action as aforesaid, he shall be entitled to recover from any other person who, if sued, might also have been held liable... a decree to pass against them for an agreed sum; and who then sought to recover a contribution under section 3(2) from Colne Fishing Co Ltd, Salvesen Marine (Offshore) Ltd and John Brown & Sons (Aberdeen) Ltd, who were not subject to the jurisdiction of the US courts and not party to the settlement.

Things went wrong. The diver drifted off and a safety vessel provided by Colne Fishing under contract with Texaco, owned by Salvesen Marine and crewed by John Brown & Sons, made efforts to pick him up but was unsuccessful. He floated away and was drowned.

His widow brought an action of damages in the US against Texaco and Comex and associated corporations. A settlement was put before the court in Pennsylvania who approved it and gave judgment for that amount. Comex obtained from Texaco and the other Comex corporations assignments of their respective claims against each of the appellants and commenced the present action against them in the Court of Session.

The first question was whether, on a proper construction of the words "found liable" in section 3(2), that subsection took effect only where there had been a judgment of the court on liability and damages in a contested action, or whether it sufficed that there had been a formal decree of the court giving effect to an agreed settlement.

Some assistance was to be gathered from the use of the word "found" in relation to the liability of the person claiming contribution in contradistinction to the word "held" used in relation to the liability of the person against whom he was claiming it.

The words "found liable" appeared also in section 3(1). It was true that the reference there to the verdict of a jury would normally involve that there should have been a contested

action resulting in a verdict, but that was not necessarily so. Two defendants could admit liability but seek a verdict upon quantum of damages or apportionment.

Parliament could not be taken to have intended that the subsection should not be operative in such a situation. If "found" in subsection (1) was not to be construed as requiring that there should have been a judicial decision upon a contested issue of liability, the same meaning was properly to be attributed to it in subsection (2).

The second question was whether Parliament, when it referred in section 3(2) to "any such action as aforesaid", had in contemplation only actions in a Scottish court or actions in any court anywhere in the world.

In enacting section 3, Parliament had set out to alter the common law of Scotland; it did not have any international dimension.

What both subsections (1) and (2) were doing was to alter the law of Scotland as regards the effect of Scottish judgments and the rights arising out of them. They were not saying anything about the effect of foreign judgments, and it did not make any difference that a foreign judgment arose out of a quasi-delict occurring in Scotland.

Lord Fraser delivered a concurring speech and Lord Brandon, Lord Ackner and Lord Goff agreed.

Solicitors: Clyde & Co for Gray Muirhead, WS, Edinburgh; Norton Rose Butterell & Roche for Macley Murray & Spens, Edinburgh; Hewitt Woolfson & Chown for Simpson & Marwick, WS, Edinburgh.

## Photocopies required

**Practice Direction (Appeals from reported judgments)**

If a *judgment* under appeal had been reported before the hearing and counsel wished to argue from the published report rather than from the official transcript, the court had to be provided with photocopies of the report for the judges to annotate as judgment proceeded. Sir John Donaldson, Master of the Rolls, sitting in the Court of Appeal with Lord Justice Woolf and Lord Justice Russell, directed on March 13.

provided with photocopies of the report for the judges to annotate as judgment proceeded. Sir John Donaldson, Master of the Rolls, sitting in the Court of Appeal with Lord Justice Woolf and Lord Justice Russell, directed on March 13.

## Test of material facts

**Kelsall v Allstate Insurance Co Ltd**

The test of the extent of the duty of disclosure of material facts in insurance contracts was whether a fact would have been treated as material by a reasonable and prudent insurer, not the individual insurer in the particular contract. The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Parker, Lord Justice Balcombe and Lord Justice Stocker) held on February 24.

LORD JUSTICE PARKER, applying the test set out in *Lambert v Co-Operative Insurance Society Ltd* ((1975) 2 Lloyd's Rep 485), added that a warranty in a contract "no known adverse facts" required the policyholder to disclose only facts known by him (in his capacity as a reasonable man) to be adverse, and not to disclose facts not recognized by the reasonable man as adverse but which turned out to be so.

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# THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

This selective guide to entertainment and events throughout Britain appears from Monday to Friday, followed in the Saturday section by a preview of the week ahead. Items for inclusion should be sent to The Times Information Service, PO Box 7, 1 Virginia Street, London E1 9XN

## BOOKING KEY

\* Seats available  
\* Returns only

## THEATRE

### LONDON

**THE ARKLEY BARNET SHOW:** Dr Evidine Hinge and Dame Hilda Brackett present their reworked comedy of battles and barbed wit. Comedy Theatre, Panton Street, London SW1 (01-830 2578). Tube: Piccadilly Circus. Mon-Fri 7.30-10.15pm, Fri and Sat 7.30-10.15pm, Sat 7.30-10.15pm, Sun 2.15-10.15pm, Sun 7.30-10.15pm.

**THE HENRYS:** Michael Woodcock's innovative production of Shakespeare's Henry plays, with Michael Pennington as Prince Hal and Henry V, and John Woodvine as Falstaff. Old Vic, Waterloo Road, London SW1 (01-830 2578). Tube: Waterloo. Mon-Fri 7.30-10.15pm, Sat 7.30-10.15pm, Sun 2.15-10.15pm, Sun 7.30-10.15pm.

**HIGH SOCIETY:** The show of the film. Staged with extra Col. Porter. Sold out until April 6. Victoria Palace Theatre, Victoria Street, London SW1 (01-834 1317). Tube: Victoria. Mon-Fri 7.45-10.15pm, Sat 7.30-10.15pm, Sun 2.15-10.15pm, Sun 7.30-10.15pm.

**MARCH OF THE FALSETTOS:** Previews of the zippy, witty musical by William Finn concerning the home life of New York musicals. Albany Theatre, St Martin's Lane, London WC2 (01-838 3878). Tube: Leicester Square. Previews Mon-Fri 8.15-10.30pm, Fri and Sat 7.30-10.15pm, Sun 2.15-10.15pm, Sun 7.30-10.15pm.

**NO WORRIES:** Spill-binding musical play for young people about a girl who is a daughter of an Australian sheep farmer, forced to move to the city. Young Vic, The Old Vic, London SW1 (01-838 3878). Tube: Waterloo. Fri and Sat 7.30-10.15pm, Sun 2.15-10.15pm, Sun 7.30-10.15pm.

**NUNSENSE:** Previews of award-winning off-Broadway musical set in a convent no more to bury all 45 of its nuns who have been poisoned by vichysse. Honor Blackman stars as the nuns. Fortune Theatre, Russell Street, London WC2 (01-836 2238). Tube: Covent Garden. Previews Mon-Fri 8.10-10.30pm, Sat 8.30-10.50pm, Sun 2.15-10.15pm, Sun 7.30-10.15pm.

**THE THREE SISTERS:** Strongly cast Chekhov in a new translation by Michael Frayn. Previews until March 23. Greenleaf Theatre, Crooms Hill, London SE1 (01-856 7755). Station: Greenwich. Mon-Sat 7.45-10.45pm, mainline Sat 8.30-6.30pm, Sun 2.15-10.15pm.

**LONG RUNNERS:** The Business of Murder. Mayfair Theatre (01-838 3036). \* Cats: New London Theatre (01-402 0072). \* Chess: Prince Edward Theatre (01-734 8551). \* 42nd Street: Drury Lane Theatre (01-836 6100). \* The Sound of Music: Palace Theatre (01-836 6100). \* The Sound of Music: Palace Theatre (01-836 6100).

**OUTSIDE LONDON:** 1 The Fly. 2 The Colour of Money. 3 The Children. 4 The Colour of Money. 5 The Colour of Money. 6 The Colour of Money. 7 The Colour of Money. 8 The Colour of Money. 9 The Colour of Money. 10 The Colour of Money.

## TOP FILMS AND VIDEOS

**LONDON:** (1) The Colour of Money. (2) The Children. (3) The Colour of Money. (4) The Colour of Money. (5) The Colour of Money. (6) The Colour of Money. (7) The Colour of Money. (8) The Colour of Money. (9) The Colour of Money. (10) The Colour of Money.

## CONCERTS

**ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL:** 1 The Colour of Money. 2 The Children. 3 The Colour of Money. 4 The Colour of Money. 5 The Colour of Money. 6 The Colour of Money. 7 The Colour of Money. 8 The Colour of Money. 9 The Colour of Money. 10 The Colour of Money.

## OPERA & BALLET

**COLLIERIES:** 1 The Colour of Money. 2 The Children. 3 The Colour of Money. 4 The Colour of Money. 5 The Colour of Money. 6 The Colour of Money. 7 The Colour of Money. 8 The Colour of Money. 9 The Colour of Money. 10 The Colour of Money.

## THEATRES

**ADRIAN:** 1 The Colour of Money. 2 The Children. 3 The Colour of Money. 4 The Colour of Money. 5 The Colour of Money. 6 The Colour of Money. 7 The Colour of Money. 8 The Colour of Money. 9 The Colour of Money. 10 The Colour of Money.

**Please, We're British:** Duchess Theatre (01-836 8243). \* Phantom of the Opera: Sold out until October. Her Majesty's Theatre (01-836 2244). \* Run for your Wife: Criterion Theatre (01-830 3216). \* The Sound of Music: Victoria Theatre (01-838 8865). \* Stepping Out: Duke of York's Theatre (01-836 5122). \* The Sound of Music: Dominion Theatre (01-830 8845).

## OUT OF TOWN

**BOLTON:** \* Black Star: New play by David Pownall about the Aldridge, the first great black actor, meeting prejudice and censorship on the road to stardom. Aldridge Theatre, Bolton (01-830 3216).

**CAMBRIDGE:** \* Peer Gynt: Cambridge Theatre (01-830 3216). \* The Sound of Music: Victoria Theatre (01-838 8865). \* Stepping Out: Duke of York's Theatre (01-836 5122).

**LEEDS:** \* Prayers: Philip Voss plays the colonial newspaper scrabble in a famous tale of Fleet Street. Playhouse Theatre, Calverley Street (01-830 3216).

**LEICESTER:** \* Bopha: The electrifying production by the Earth Players of Johannes: passion, humour and humanity. Haymarket Theatre, Leicester (01-830 3216).

**SHEFFIELD:** \* The Sound of Music: Victoria Theatre (01-838 8865). \* Stepping Out: Duke of York's Theatre (01-836 5122).

**Also on national release:** \* Advance booking possible. \* The Sound of Music: Victoria Theatre (01-838 8865).

## FILMS

**CHILDREN OF A LESSER GOD:** (15) Polished version of the Broadway play, with William Hurt as the boy who is a son of a prostitute. Directed by John Dahl. Released by Columbia Pictures.

**THE COLOUR OF MONEY:** (18) The Sound of Music: Victoria Theatre (01-838 8865). \* Stepping Out: Duke of York's Theatre (01-836 5122).

## WORKING GIRLS (18)

A documentary-style treatment of New York's middle-class prostitutes, cooly observed by feminist director Lizzy Borden. Louise Smith heads a cast of professional actresses (50 min). Released by Columbia Pictures.

## OPERA

**ARIADNE AUF NAXOS:** Gundersen's take on the life of the opera. Directed by John Dahl. Released by Columbia Pictures.

## CONCERTS

**ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL:** 1 The Colour of Money. 2 The Children. 3 The Colour of Money. 4 The Colour of Money. 5 The Colour of Money. 6 The Colour of Money. 7 The Colour of Money. 8 The Colour of Money. 9 The Colour of Money. 10 The Colour of Money.

## OPERA & BALLET

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## THEATRES

**ADRIAN:** 1 The Colour of Money. 2 The Children. 3 The Colour of Money. 4 The Colour of Money. 5 The Colour of Money. 6 The Colour of Money. 7 The Colour of Money. 8 The Colour of Money. 9 The Colour of Money. 10 The Colour of Money.

**Fast Eddie Nelson:** tries to get back into the game, spurred by jealousy of a young protégé played by Tom Courtenay (119 min). Canon Cinema (01-836 5098). Progs 2.35, 5.30, 8.15.

**Leicester Square Theatre:** (01-830 3216). \* Phantom of the Opera: Sold out until October. Her Majesty's Theatre (01-836 2244).

**COME AND SEE (15):** Powerful Soviet film about Nazi atrocities in Byelorussia directed by Elem Klimov (145 min). Canon Cinema (01-836 5098).

**THE FLY (18):** Jeff Goldblum - an inspired choice - plays the experimental scientist undergoing a metamorphosis. Released by Columbia Pictures.

**THE GOLDEN CHILD (PG):** Eddie Murphy as a social worker who rescues a kidnapped girl. Released by Columbia Pictures.

**THE MOSQUITO COAST (PG):** Harrison Ford and Helen Mirren in an atmospheric adventure, based on Paul Theroux's novel about a family taking refuge in Central America's rivers and jungle. Directed by Peter Weir (119 min).

**NAME OF THE ROSE (18):** Medieval murder mystery, filmed with a fine sense of atmosphere and a grotesque carnival of characters. Directed by Jean-Jacques Annaud, with Sean Connery (131 min).

**CHILDREN OF A LESSER GOD:** (15) Polished version of the Broadway play, with William Hurt as the boy who is a son of a prostitute. Directed by John Dahl.

**THE COLOUR OF MONEY:** (18) The Sound of Music: Victoria Theatre (01-838 8865). \* Stepping Out: Duke of York's Theatre (01-836 5122).

## WORKING GIRLS (18)

A documentary-style treatment of New York's middle-class prostitutes, cooly observed by feminist director Lizzy Borden. Louise Smith heads a cast of professional actresses (50 min).

**THE COLOUR OF MONEY:** (18) The Sound of Music: Victoria Theatre (01-838 8865). \* Stepping Out: Duke of York's Theatre (01-836 5122).

## OPERA

**ARIADNE AUF NAXOS:** Gundersen's take on the life of the opera. Directed by John Dahl. Released by Columbia Pictures.

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Where was *Star Wars* filmed? In Hollywood? Outer space? Special effects work aside, George Lucas's escapist epic went before the cameras near Hertfordshire's cows and green fields. Elstree's status as "the British Hollywood" is now being celebrated in a stills exhibition at Twickenham. In 1914 there was just the Neptune studio at Boreham Wood, by the 1930s four sites had been built together - the biggest controlled by John Maxwell, former Scout solicitor. British International Pictures was his company, Britannia its trademark and Hitchcock one of the directors. Imported technicians ensured some spectacular scenic effects, but at some cost to authentic atmosphere.

**RUDDIGORE:** New Sadler's Wells Opera tour in Judge's witty, wittily staged production of the 18th-century comic opera, strongly cast and well sung. Empire Theatre, High Street West, Sunderland (01-21 2517). 7.30-10.30pm, Sun 2.15-5.15pm.

**DEER FLEUGEN HOLLÄNDER:** John Cox's striking industrial revolution of a production of the Scottish Opera, with Norman Bailey and Kathryn Harries. King's Theatre, Edinburgh (01-22 228 180). 7.15-10.15pm, Sun 2.15-5.15pm.

**UN BALLO IN MASCHERA:** Italian Opera House production for Welsh National Opera with Christine Teare as the Amalia. Empire Theatre, High Street West, Sunderland (01-21 2517). 7.30-10.30pm, Sun 2.15-5.15pm.

**CHILDREN OF A LESSER GOD:** (15) Polished version of the Broadway play, with William Hurt as the boy who is a son of a prostitute. Directed by John Dahl.

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## WALKS

**LONDON'S HISTORIC DOCKLANDS & THAMES:** meet Tower Hill tube, 2.30pm, £2.75. **A LONDON VILLAGE - CHELSEA:** meet Sloane Square tube, 11am, £2.25. **AN HISTORIC PUB WALK - JACK THE RIPPER HAUNTS:** meet Aldgate tube, 7.30pm, £2.25.

**WHITECHAPEL OPEN:** An annual exhibition of exciting diversity selected from an open submission of work by artists, professionals and amateurs, living or working in East London. Whitechapel Art Gallery, Whitechapel High Street, London E1 (01-377 0107). Tues-Sun 11am-4.50pm, Wed 11am-7.50pm, free, until April 2.

**MASS OBSERVATION:** An exhibition, including Humphrey Spender's memorable portraits of friends, of archive material collected in order to ascertain how the arts have been perceived and what he thought. Westemans Art Gallery, 40 High Street, Brentford, Middlesex (01-89 1176). Free, until March 28.

**ANTHONY GROSS RA (1898-1984):** A retrospective of the artist's work, including his famous portraits of friends and family. The Arts Club, 40 Dover Street, London W1 (01-499 8581). Mon-Fri 10am-noon and 3.30-6.30pm, free, until April 1.

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## TALKS

**A CLASH OF CULTURES - SINGAPORE:** Talk by David Woodcombe, QC, on the history and destructive effect of cultural difference on the prosperity of an emerging country. Organized by the Institute for Cultural Research. Westminster Cathedral Hall, Ambrose Avenue, London SW1 (info 088 286 2045). 7.30pm, £2.

**WHAT MAY I HOPE?:** The Road-Tuesday Lecture given by Dr Oona O'Neill, University of Essex. University of Bristol Lecture Theatre 3, Arts Faculty, Woodland Road (0272 24101). 1pm, free.

**QUILTERS' GOLD THIRD NATIONAL PATCHWORK EXHIBITION:** The best works of patchwork, quilting and applique made by members of the Quilters' Guild and selected from nine regional shows is on display. The 80 quilts and hangings represent traditional and modern styles. Also an educational display on technique, information stand and informal demonstrations by quilt makers. Royal Institute of British Architects, 66 Portland Place, London W1. Today until March 31. Mon-Fri 10am-6pm, Saturday 10am-3pm, adults £2.50, child, student £1.50.

**WEST CORNWALL SPRING:** Shows, displays and competitions of many varieties of spring flowers and vegetables. Judging at 3pm. St John's Hall, Avening, Cornwall. Cornwall Show, 2.30pm, adult 40p (to include catalogue), child 20p.

**THE FEROCIOUS CHASTITY OF IRISH WOMEN:** Dramatized history of the Irish woman. O'Connell and Mary Campbell - a humorous look at the myths and realities of the subject. Waterliffe Arts Centre, High Street, Brentford, Middlesex (01-89 1176). Tonight, tomorrow, 8pm, £2.

**CAMRA LONDON DRINKER BEER FESTIVAL:** Last day of this annual beer festival. Live music this evening. Victoria Theatre, Victoria Street, London W1. 11.30am-3pm, 5-10.30pm, morning free, evening £1.

**PROVINCIAL BOOKSELLERS FAIR:** Antiquarian and good second-hand books, maps, prints and other ephemera. The Racecourse, Haydock, Merseyside. Today 2-8pm, tomorrow 10am-5pm, admission 30p.

**YORK UNIVERSITY SUMMER FESTIVAL:** A variety of events to commemorate first Nottingham Festival of 1987, with artists including Ian Partridge and Thomas Tompkins, with music by Schumann, Mendelssohn and Mozart. June 17-25. Box Office, Music Dept, York University, Heslington, York (01484 480000 ext 5829).

**HORSES, HUNTING AND RACING:** Paintings by equestrian artist Philip Sanders in the style of the 19th century. Paintings by Philip Sanders, in the style of the 19th century. Paintings by Philip Sanders, in the style of the 19th century.

**THE HUMAN FIGURE IN ART:** establishes a fairly broad guideline for the show, but it specifically addresses the expressive potential of gestures and poses. National Gallery, Trafalgar Square, London WC2 (01-839 3321). Mon-Sat 10am-6pm, Sun 2-6pm, free.

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## THE ARTS

## Grave tidings

"Let us open up our psychic centre," proposed the moderator of a circle of spirit-seekers as they sat determinedly facing the cameras of *40 Minutes* (BBC2). One had to blink, of course, because their psychic centre is already open: wedged between the embassies of Belgrave Square, the headquarters of the Spiritualist Association of Great Britain is evidently doing a roaring trade as a sort of switchboard for disembodied callous.

Those substantial enough to be recorded here could have been bought in from Central Casting — the inconsiderable and unpersuasive, those who are constrained to seek com-

## TELEVISION

fort in alternatives to the physical world. Their belief was palpable, though belief in what remained obscure. The public sessions in which aspirant mediums are road-tested for membership resemble a cross between a revivalist meeting and a game-show. The candidate whose fortunes were followed brimful with sincerity and gentle tact. In private session, a cheery practitioner was shown "healing" a 14-year-old Scottish toddler, dead and suffering from emphysema and a slipped disc.

As a piece of television, the programme was passively content to let the participants speak for themselves. This is their stock in trade — and they are too good at it. The association's image-dressing ambitions may be narrowly laudable (its secretary roundly declared that he would be suspicious of anyone asking him to take his clothes off), but surely the richest vein in this nebulous seam is provided by the cowboys and chancers, not by the approved line-tiers.

*Shirleyville Spirit* (Channel 4) conjured the ghosts of those massacred in 1969. "I saw what looked like a flock of fallen sheep," recalled an old woman, whose last news of her own grandson, more recently, was a photograph of his corpse displayed at the police station.

Haunted by history, the young folk rehearsed songs, plays and poems on predictable subjects and along predictable lines, while the smugged-in reporter asked money questions. The ensuing discourse was alarming in its subject matter and categorical in its procedure.

Martin Cropper

## From Russia, with hate

## CINEMA

**Come and See (15)**  
Curzon Phoenix,  
Charing Cross Road

**The Fourth Protocol (15)**  
Odeon, Leicester Square

**Working Girls (18)**  
Metro  
Camden Plaza

**Always (15)**  
Cannon, Tottenham Court Road

Elem Klimov is the most prominent personality in the renaissance Soviet cinema. Since last spring, when he was elected President of the Film Makers' Union, he has worked tirelessly to help the cinema put its house in new order. His personal prestige among his peers, as well as his official position, give him exceptional influence — and it remains to be seen what that influence will effect.

Klimov himself never had an easy time with the old establishments: films with such provocative titles as *Welcome, or No Entry for Unauthorised Persons* were shelved; *Agonia* waited nine years for release.

As it happens, *Come and See*, his most recent work, did win official approval. Although conceived nine years ago, it arrived opportunely as a piece of occasion for the 40th anniversary of the Great Patriotic War, and ran away with the Grand Prix at the 1985 Moscow Film Festival.

It is a powerful, accomplished, shocking work — a spectacular fresco of the disasters of war. Set in Byelorussia in 1943, the horror is seen through the eyes of a young man, a peasant lad with a "coward's face" which grows old, before our eyes, as he passes through the circles of inferno. "We wanted him to be 300," Klimov has said. The role put terrible strains on the young actor Alexei Krav-

David Robinson on the horror of war, as seen through the eyes of a boy who is Everyman



Growing old, suddenly: Alexei Kravchenko, central figure of Elem Klimov's *Come and See*

chenko, and Klimov adds that "there was a special group on the film to defend him from me".

The climactic horror is the massacre of an entire village, as the inhabitants, down to the last child, are crowded into a wooden barn and incinerated. The spectacle of cruelty is unrelenting. The Germans are depicted as devils in human form, exulting in their evil as they kill, loot, rape, torture, burn and mutilate.

The hatred is terrible. Even Dovzhenko's *Ukraine in Flames*, actually made in 1943, in the heat of battle, was more temperate. The anger is not an uncontrolled passion, though: the film is far too careful for that, with its beautifully composed images and calculated effects; with Strauss waltzes over a struggle through the swamps, an organ voluntary over the configuration and a choral requiem for the final.

There is a kind of catharsis in the horror; and of course it is all true: more than 600 Byelorussian villages, as a title tells us incontrovertibly, were totally annihilated in this way. Even so, after 40 years it seems somehow irrelevant to describe the phenomenon like this, in all its brutality, without asking for one moment why and how it happened; and when and where it will happen next.

It seems so long since the cinema was churning out adventure melodramas about East-West espionage that *The Fourth Protocol* appears antiquated. This one follows all the old formulae, with Michael Caine as the go-it-alone secret agent who discovers, to nobody's surprise, that the true villains of international espionage are the career bureaucrats who run the agencies. The story is boys' comic

stuff. The maverick chief of Soviet intelligence despatches a killer agent to plant an atom bomb in an American nuclear base in Britain, with the aim of inciting a massive anti-nuclear and anti-American movement within Nato. It is watchable when actors like Caine, Ian Richardson or Ray McAnally are doing their bits, or when director John Mackenzie details the mechanical processes of the job.

But the stock characters, like Pierce Brosnan's killer or Julian Glover's careerist MI6 man, are absurd. The problem these days is that the real thing, like the Wright affair, is usually funnier than fiction can devise. Lizzie Borden has emerged from the feminist underground to make what she calls her first fiction film, in fact a kind of docu-drama about a day in a new-style New York yuppie-class brothel. The title *Working Girls*

describes Borden's approach: she views prostitution not as a social problem but as a job — demanding and dirty work, but profitable. The girls we meet (all played by actresses) include a college graduate, a quietly efficient professional, and a loud-mouthed teenager with no illusions.

Borden is interested in the documentary detail: the stock rituals and dialogues which welcome customers; the techniques of contraception and hygiene; the laundry and refreshments, account books, timetables and lunch breaks.

The clients are a fairly pitiful lot, all with queer kinks and fantasies, and trying to pretend that these short-lived sales of sex are something else. Yet, as this energetic performance under Sir John Pritchard's sympathetic direction demonstrated, *Harnasie* weaves a rich store of folk melodies into as brilliant a collage as any ballet score in the repertoire.

It tells a *Lorna Doone* sort of story — of brigands, farmers and an unwilling bride snatched from the wedding — but set in the Tatra Mountains of Poland. Szymanowski draws on authentic songs and dances of that region, relishing and even exaggerating their modal astringencies, wayward inflections and stamping rhythms, but always drawing them into his own exquisite set of instrumental colours.

In the dances and choral songs particularly (where the BBC Symphony Chorus and BBC Singers worked hard to project the lines), a certain

## Maids of the mountains

## CONCERTS

**BBCSO/  
Pritchard**  
Festival Hall/  
Radio 3

Posterity's shoddy treatment of Karol Szymanowski is typified by the fate of the Pole's vividly pictorial and sumptuously orchestrated ballet-pantomime *Harnasie*. Written in the late 1920s, acclaimed in Prague and Paris in the 1930s, it has hardly been heard since. Yet, as this energetic performance under Sir John Pritchard's sympathetic direction demonstrated, *Harnasie* weaves a rich store of folk melodies into as brilliant a collage as any ballet score in the repertoire.

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In the dances and choral songs particularly (where the BBC Symphony Chorus and BBC Singers worked hard to project the lines), a certain

barbarity seems to flourish within this framework of high musical sophistication: the brigands' entrance, for instance, culminates in a great scream.

Nevertheless, the work, which is unashamedly episodic, has its introspective moments. There are some delicious double-stopping, Romy-style violin solos, played here with an idiomatic flourish by Rodney Friend, and an important, atmospheric part for tenor.

Graham Clark delivered it in fine, ringing voice, though his disconcerting way of popping in and out of a door by the organ (presumably in accord with the score's requirement) muddled the balance.

The BBC Symphony Orchestra played with more fire than it has mustered all season, and this fervent Szymanowski certainly blew away the gloom cast earlier by Sibelius at his most Stygian. His Fourth Symphony was, however, well-interpreted by Pritchard (though the ensemble was none too precise in places), and the dark-timbered solo cello playing of Ferenc Szucs was especially memorable.

A still-rarer bird had opened proceedings. *Overalls, 7c* *Deum*, unlike *Harnasie*, seems to have earned its obscurity. Full-bodied solos from Anne Evans and David Wilson-Johnson and a well-trained choral contribution could not dispel the aura of inconsequentiality.

Richard Morrison

## Waltzes for two at a party for all

**LMP/Glover**  
Elizabeth Hall

In the three years that Jane Glover has been artistic director of the London Mozart Players, the ensemble has become an ever more distinctive gallery of vivid young solo voices: muscle has been toned and ensemble invigorated. On Wednesday night, as if to celebrate the fact, the principals were given their own musical party.

Two 18th century concertante works were highlighted at the concert's centre. Haydn's B flat *Sinfonia Concertante* pits solo violin, cello, oboe and bassoon against a deluxe orchestral line-up, including trumpets and timpani.

Luigi de Filippi, Sebastian Comberti, Celia Nicklin and John Whitfield made mellifluous chamber music and asserted their own personalities in the discreet democracy of every concluding trill.

I particularly enjoyed the slow movement's gentle waltzing game of pairs between de Filippi's high-spirited violin and Whitfield's sturdiest bassoon, on the one hand, and the slender oboe phrasing of Nicklin with Comberti's cello on the other.

The real tour-de-force of duetting, though, came in

Frantisek Krommer's rumbustious Concerto for two clarinets, with a note that one would go round and round for ever.

For this deceptively artful romp by a Bohemian innkeeper's son, two guest soloists were brought in. Angela Malsbury and Andrew Marriener figure skated their way through pirouettes of parallel thirds and slithering scales, waltzed through the adagio, and teased each other through the rondo with repartee worthy of a Figaro and a Susanna.

Krommer, who spent his life commuting between Bohemia, Austria and Hungary, ended up in Vienna. Mozart and Haydn must have come across him in their last years in the city, and a symphony of each of them provided the concert with a sturdy frame.

The flute and oboe playing of Philippa Davies and Nicholas Daniel, from within the ranks, sharpened the focus of Jane Glover's docile, if meticulous, performance of Haydn's 71st.

By the time everyone had warmed up, Mozart's 34th gave the LMP's horns and trumpets a chance to show their prowess by leading the symphony into its new, major-key light.

Hilary Finch

## Pirandello in just the Wright light

## THEATRE

**Six Characters in Search of an Author**  
Olivier Theatre

Following Lorca and Kipling, Pirandello is the third giant this year to escape the fetters of posthumous copyrighting — a release exhilaratingly celebrated in Nicholas Wright's new version of this under-performed masterpiece from which Michael Rudman has directed the most coherent production I have seen.

Despite its seemingly precarious games with illusion and reality, *Six Characters* is a work of indestructible craftsmanship. Up to a point, it always works; but it is also a piece for which audiences often find themselves making allowances — putting up with the supposed melodrama of the characters' story for the theatrical sophistication with which it is presented.

There is also the question of period. The piece dates from the era of autocratic directors and, in the original, opens with a company rehearsing Pirandello's *The Rules of the Game*. You cannot update the play without falsifying theatrical manners; and yet some means has to be found to recapture the sense of actuality.

Wright's inspired alternative is to substitute a rehearsal of *Hamlet* — a work that is not only echoed in

Pirandello's text, but also relates to the primal events in the characters' story.

Rudman's production opens with a delicious rehearsal scene, etching in a group of personalities who preserve their identities throughout the show. There is Leslie Sands as an old commedia merchant who has trouble remembering Polonius's lines, and an immensely dignified Antony Brown, trying to maintain regal aplomb while clutching a bunch of grapes. The Pirandellian point is that these "real" people are already taking cover behind a flimsy masquerade of charm and confidence.

Then, heralded by a rumble of theatrical thunder that puts the lights out, the six characters appear. In well-justified defiance of the stage directions, they are not masked. Without masks the two groups achieve direct contact in their contest for the psychic territory; and, in particular, the Father (Richard Pasco) can confront the Director (Robin Bailey) as a theatrical father figure.

On this basis the play's wonderful transitions — from high emotion to bathos, and from tragic experience to trivial re-enactment — go off like pistol shots.

Rudman's other all-important decision is to refuse easy laughs at the expense of the actors. When Mr Brown dons a toupée to play the incest scene with Robin McCaffrey, they do the scene rather well; what the characters object to is that the actors are taking possession of their property, not that they are misrepresenting it.



Waiting: (from left) Alan Townes, Richard Pasco, Robin Bailey and Ralph Fiennes

In the garden scene, for which Carl Toms drops in an ornate funeral set from *Cyrano*, Lesley Sharp (as the Stepdaughter) picks up this cue with a feverish energy that pushes the action towards its fatal climax with the unstoppable momentum of an orgasm.

Beautifully, though Pasco plays

him, I am not convinced that the Father — forever evading the moment of confession — ranks as the play's moral centre; however adept he is in Pirandellian aesthetics. In other respects this is a perfectly judged and thrilling performance.

Irving Wardle

**High Places**  
Mitchell Theatre,  
Glasgow

A story of everyday tower-block folk, *High Places* is a sequel to *East of Eden*, Stewart's best-known play. It was commissioned by the 7:84 Scotland Company after the huge success of their own revival of the earlier play.

The scene has moved from the tenements of the 1940s to the high rise housing schemes of the 1960s and 1970s, reproduced by projections on to what looks like the prefabricated sections from which the tower-blocks were built.

The characters are, on the one hand, the residents — downtrodden but warm-hearted — and, on the other, the housing directorate — corrupt and greedy. On the floor-cloth is a giant Monopoly board, on which a game is played with real people to emphasize the insensitivity of the system. It is all very simple: rather too simple. It feels like watching the building blocks of a play before anyone has cut them to shape.

There is nothing much wrong with John Haswell's production that a bit more energy and taste would not solve. Individual performances are adequate, but they have little to get their teeth into. The pathos and anger associated with these housing schemes are written into a very narrow emotional band.

Robert

Dawson Scott

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STOCK MARKET

THE POUND

Girobank  
cuts home  
loan rate

Chip

Sharon

Chip

Chip

Chip

Chip

Chip

Chip

Chip

Chip



Executive Editor  
Kenneth Fleet

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share  
1581.6 (-7.9)  
FT-SE 100  
1991.0 (-15.6)

Bargains  
51952 (52571)  
USM (Datastream)  
159.80 (-0.15)

THE POUND

US dollar  
1.6025 (-0.0035)  
W German mark  
2.9390 (-0.0096)  
Trade-weighted  
72.3 (-0.3)

Girobank cuts home loan rate

National Girobank, the banking arm of the Post Office, became the first mortgage lender to drop its home loan rate.

Girobank, which began offering mortgages last November and still has a very small loan book, cut its rate by one percentage point to 11.5 per cent.

Chip scrip

Pleasant, the casino-leisure group, is making a one-for-one scrip issue and reports 1986 pretax profits of £42.3 million against £37.5 million, on turnover up £31.7 million to £191.8 million. The final dividend rises 2p to 7.75p (7.5p). The shares rose 8p to 365p.

Temps, page 23

Shearson link

Shearson Lehman, the New York securities house, is close to a deal with Nippon Life, the Japanese insurance group, which would give it a \$530 million (£330 million) capital injection in return for a 13 per cent shareholding by the Japanese company.

In Family Money tomorrow, the good news on mortgages is explained, even though the Chancellor did not raise the tax relief threshold, in addition to a review of how the Budget affects pensions. Also, news on medical prescription charges, and an interview with Sir Mark Weinberg, the financial services expert.

Barratt up

Barratt Developments reported a 67 per cent pretax profit increase to £12.5 million in the half-year to December 31 despite a 12 per cent drop in unit sales. Turnover fell from £213.7 million to £186.6 million. The interim dividend is 2.54p.

Temps, page 23

Gilbert buy

Gilbert House Investments, a US-listed property company, is paying nearly £59 million for Centrovial Estates in an agreed bid. Terms are 61 shares or £48 plus one share for 16 Centrovial shares.

Builders shut

McLaughlin & Harvey, the USM building group, has shut down operations in the Republic of Ireland after 80 years because of the depressed economy. Pretax profits fell from £1.14 million to just over £1 million.

Director stays

Professor Bryan Carsberg has been reappointed director general of telecommunications for a further five years.

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MARKET SUMMARY

STOCK MARKETS	
New York	2292.19 (+3.28)
Dow Jones	743p (+15p)
Nikkei Dow	21644.32 (-50.74)
Hong Kong	2721.28 (-2.73)
Hang Seng	277.0 (-0.1)
Amsterdam Gen	1648.6 (+10.0)
Sydney AO	1693.8 (-47.8)
Frankfurt	4504.58 (+5.52)
Brussels	527.10 (-5.30)
Paris CAC	527.10 (-5.30)
Zurich S&K Gen	527.10 (-5.30)
London FT 100	1991.0 (-15.6)
FT 30 Share	1581.6 (-7.9)
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INTEREST RATES	
London Bank Base	10%
3-month interbank	9 1/8-9 1/4
3-month eligible bills	9 1/8-9 1/4
buying rate	
US Prime Rate	7 1/2%
Federal Funds	6%
3-month Treasury	5.49-5.48%
30-year Treasury	10 1/8-10 1/2%
CURRENCIES	
London	New York
£ \$1.6025	£ \$1.6040
£ DM2.9390	£ DM2.9390
£ FF9.7742	£ FF9.7742
£ Yen242.02	£ Yen242.02
£ Index 103.1	£ Index 103.1
ECU 33.78835	SDR 16.78922

Borrowings of £283m will be written off before sale

Rolls-Royce debts cleared

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

The Government confirmed yesterday that it intends to write off £283 million of Rolls-Royce borrowings in preparation for the aero engine company's privatization in early May.

The state equity purchase, announced in the Commons by Mr Geoffrey Pattie, the Industry Minister, will leave the company debt-free and means that Rolls-Royce will have received £791 million of public funds since its collapse and nationalization in 1971.

A price tag of between £1.2 billion and £1.5 billion is now being put on the business, which builds engines for a wide range of aircraft from Concorde to the Boeing 747 and the Tornado fighter.

Sir Francis Tombs, the chairman who yesterday announced record pretax profits for 1986 of £120 million, said he expected shares in the company to be attractive to City institutions but also to individuals fired with the "romance" of the business.

Another increase in profits is expected this year and the flotation is almost certain to be over-subscribed. Some potential investors remain concerned, however, by the smallness of Rolls-Royce in comparison with its American rivals, Pratt & Whitney and General Electric.

The company revealed its highest-ever order book of £3.1 billion and said its prospects were encouraging. The chairman reported a steady growth in productivity over the past five years, improved financial controls, experienced management and a skilled and loyal workforce.

Sir Francis's piece of privatization good news was, however, tarnished by trade union disquiet over a report raising the possibility of factory closures in Scotland and a long-term diversification plan to transform Rolls-Royce into a conglomerate selling everything from food to financial services.

Mr Alex Ferry, general secretary of the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions, said a management document in the hands of the unions recommended that the company reduce its dependence upon civil aero engines to 25 per cent of turnover, diversify into food, oil, medical care, banking, unit trust management and drink, and close up to four plants, including the East Kilbride factory near Glasgow where 2,390 are employed.

But Sir Francis said at a press conference that the document was prepared by a junior manager and its conclusions were "ridiculous." There were no prospects, no intention and no proposal to close East Kilbride.

Sir Francis said the Government's subscription for extra shares would provide the company with the strong balance sheet it needed to maintain its world position. The company's merchant bank, SG Warburg, has arranged a £250 million facility which, Sir Francis said, would be more than enough to replace existing bank credit lines. Government guarantees of Rolls-Royce's debts will cease on privatization.

The company's sales last year totalled £1,802 billion against £1,601 billion in 1985 and operating profit was up from £211 million to £273 million. Net research and development costs rose by a third to £132 million.

The bulk of the operating profit came from civil engine sales - up from £73 million to £137 million - with orders for military aircraft engines up by £8 million to £118 million.

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Sir Francis Tombs: attractive stock to 'romantic' individuals

Guinness to sue Saunders over £5m

By Lawrence Lever

Guinness, the spirits and brewing group, has issued a writ in the High Court against Mr Ernest Saunders, its former chairman and chief executive, and Mr Thomas Ward, a Guinness director, over £5.2 million which was paid to a Jersey nominee company.

At the same time the Guinness board also took steps to oust both men as directors of the company. Guinness has already accused them of breaching their duties to the company because of their role in allegedly authorizing the payment to the Jersey company last May.

Documents filed by the Jersey company in legal proceedings taken by Guinness in Jersey to trace the £5.2 million allege that the money was a fair reward for Mr Ward's services.

The money is part of £25 million worth of mystery invoices unaccounted for by Guinness. The company says that it has no satisfactory explanation for them.

Yesterday's legal action shows that Guinness is not prepared to accept the Jersey company's explanation. During the course of the Jersey proceedings, it emerged that the £5.2 million had been transferred to a number of people. One transfer showed that £4.7 million of it had been sent to a Swiss bank account.

Another showed that more than \$165,000 (£103,000) had been transferred to Mr Ward's own bank account in Jersey.

Guinness claims that Mr Saunders and Mr Ward instructed Mr Olivier Roux, the former finance director, to make the £5.2 million payment on May 23 last year. Mr Roux is not being sued by Guinness.

The board has also decided to put an extraordinary resolution to shareholders seeking to remove Mr Saunders and Mr Ward as directors at the annual meeting at the end of May.

Although Guinness sacked Mr Saunders as chairman and chief executive on January 14 it cannot remove him as a director without putting a formal resolution to the company's shareholders. The resolution seeking his removal will require 75 per cent of those that vote to support it.

6p payout at Britoil despite job losses

By David Young

Energy Correspondent  
Britoil, the oil company set up by the Government from its oil assets in the North Sea, yesterday surprised the City with a higher than expected dividend at the end of a year in which it made 700 redundant and put its oil and gas fields in the US on the market.

The Government still has a golden share in the company, which is the world's largest pure oil exploration company. Sir Philip Shelbourne, chairman, said there was no reason for this but he called for notice of years rather than months of any intention to remove the share, which makes Britoil takeover-proof.

Britoil announced after-tax profits of £33 million at the end of a year in which it paid £12 million in British redundancy costs and has set aside £50 million for the disposal of its American gas fields.

More than 100 companies

Britoil

have made inquiries about the US acreage and the company will ask for sealed bids next month. It is likely that the full purchase price of £106 million can be recouped, although within the US the fall in the world oil price has resulted in several companies putting acreage on the market.

The Britoil final dividend will be 6p, bringing the full-year payment to 8p. Even the most optimistic oil analyst had been predicting a final dividend of 4.5p. This was based on detailed knowledge of the company and the workings of Opec and its effect on the world oil price.

The company has been helped by shuffling off its accountability conservatism by changing the basis for calculating its allowances for Petroleum Revenue Tax. It had made its calculations on the unit allowable for each of its fields on the basis of 80 per cent of that field's reserves but has since joined all other companies in basing those units on an estimated 100 per cent of reserves.

Sir Philip Shelbourne said: "The collapse of the oil price obviously made 1986 an extremely difficult and disappointing year for Britoil but the company has come through it remarkably well."

Schroders profits jump 29%

By Richard Thomson

Banking Correspondent  
Schroders, which owns the merchant bank J Henry Schroder Wag, yesterday announced profits of £21 million for 1986, up 29 per cent from £16.3 million in the previous year.

Mr George Mallinckrodt, the executive chairman, said the group had gone through a substantial readjustment last year as it expanded into international securities and fund management.

The results included an extraordinary item of £51.2 million from the sale of the group's life assurance and unit trust interests, and the disposal of most of its banking subsidiary in New York to the International Bank of Japan. Schroders also acquired a 50 per cent stake in Wertheim, the New York investment house, but the contribution to overall profits from this investment was minimal.

The group spent about £6 million on developing its new securities business, which includes stockbroking and a small equities market-making operation. The market-making side is making a small running loss of about £100,000, but Mr Mallinckrodt said that commission income from broking had doubled and was still rising.

The group also made losses of £2 million on holdings of Eurobond floating rate notes. The dividend is raised from 10.75p to 13.5p, a 25.6 per cent increase.

Underwoods talks fail

Shares in the Underwoods chain of chemists fell sharply yesterday after takeover talks with Woolworth finally collapsed. The companies had announced a cooling-off period after news of their discussions leaked - but in the end they failed to reach agreement. Underwoods' shares immediately fell 35p to 215p, wiping £9.5 million from the company's value.

Market sources claim that Underwoods' chairman, Mr Harold Woolf - who, with the chief executive, Mr Brian Kerner, controls more than 50 per cent of the equity - was seeking about £3 a share. The Woolworth board felt that this was far too high.

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Wages growth down to 7.5%

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

Growth in average earnings fell to 7.5 per cent in January, from 7.7 per cent in December. The upward shift in the growth of average earnings at the end of last year appears to have been temporary.

Officials at the Department of Employment said the November and December figures were boosted by end-year bonus payments, and earnings growth had now settled back to its trend growth rate.

But there is some disappointment among ministers that the lower pay settlements reported by the CBI, with average settlements in manufacturing less than 5 per cent, have not shown through in a larger fall in earnings growth.

The actual growth in earnings in the 12 months to January was 7.6 per cent. But after adjustment the underlying rise was 7.5 per cent.

In January 866,000 working days were lost through industrial action, compared with a monthly average of 144,000 days lost during 1986.

Unit wage costs in manufacturing rose 3.6 per cent up on a year earlier. Productivity growth in manufacturing dipped to 4.1 per cent in January due to the output fall. But its underlying growth rate appears to be about 4.5 per cent.

The Bank of England was well ahead with its funding by the end of February, with the public sector borrowing requirement overfunded by £4 billion in the first 11 months of the 1986-87 financial year.

Broad money growth was boosted by a surge in bank lending. There was a £2.9 billion rise in bank lending last month, seasonally adjusted, higher than the £2.6 billion average of the previous six months.

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L&G lifts health rates 400%

By Michael Tate

The cost of permanent health insurance is rocketing. Legal & General, one of the biggest names in the sector, is hiking rates by between 30 and 400 per cent, after a disastrous claims experience in 1986.

L&G lost £10 million on PHI last year on premium income of only £9 million. Mr John Elbourne, managing director of L&G's British life and pensions arm, frankly admitted yesterday: "We got it wrong, particularly in the blue-collar area. And we have decided to act swiftly and firmly."

Permanent health insurance contracts offer cover against long-term injury or sickness, and group schemes run by companies like L&G have become increasingly popular in recent years. The problems have arisen, however, since these schemes were widened to include blue-collar workers.

"Most bad claims experience arose among the hourly-paid," said Mr Elbourne. He confessed: "In assessing premium levels for workers on the shop floor, we have been guilty of some misadventure."

There has been disappointment among insurers that employers have not been more supportive. Some observers believe, for example, that on occasions redundancies have been disguised as sickness.

L&G is the first insurer to admit openly to difficulties in this field, but it is thought that others will soon be following suit with hefty premium increases.

L&G's annual results for 1986 revealed pretax profits of £58.6 million, against £37.7 million in 1985, and a final dividend of 6.5p a share, making 9.75p for the year, 19.4 per cent up on the previous year.

Most areas contributed to the improvement, which was up to market expectations, with household buildings insurance particularly successful in Britain, and commercial fire turning in good results.

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BUSINESS SUMMARY

# C&W denies link-up in Japanese project

C Itoh and Cable and Wireless, the two leading partners in the International Digital Communication consortium competing for Japan's proposed second international telecommunications licence, last night denied reports that a merger had been agreed with a rival group.

The Japanese Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications wants IDC to join with International Telecommunications Japan, and for a cut in C&W's stake from 20 per cent to 3 per cent. If a merger were agreed, the joint company would compete with Kokusai Denshin Denwa, the existing monopoly.

## EEC clears Rover plan

The EEC Commission has approved a government plan to write off £680 million of accumulated losses and costs at Rover Group's Leyland Bus and Leyland Trucks subsidiaries in connection with their privatisation. Leyland Trucks' merger with the Dutch DAF group will not be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

## Barings up to £7.5 million

Barings, the private merchant bank and investment managers, yesterday disclosed a £2.5 million increase in profits from £5 million to £7.5 million. The profits were equally divided between non-banking and banking activities, after transfers to reserves. The company's net worth was raised by £25 million to £100 million.

## Williams' £23m treble

Williams Holdings, the expanding industrial conglomerate, surprised the City yesterday with 1986 profits more than trebled to £22.89 million from £6.35 million last time. They were helped by a spate of acquisitions which cost the group £160 million, including £75 million for the Daport company, which owns the Swiss curtains range, and £63 million for London and Midlands Interiors.

## Sales team joins SNC

Smith New Court (Far East), the Far-Eastern stockbroker subsidiary of the securities house, has recruited nine salesmen and support staff from the London office of Prudential Bache Securities, the US securities house. The team, including Mr. Ray Bates, Mr. Shoji Yamazaki and Mr. Crispian Besley, will be based in London.

## Profits ahead at Octopus

The Octopus Publishing Group, which includes the Hamlyn Publishing Group, made pretax profits of £26.04 million for 1986 up from £20.37 million, with a final dividend of 7.05p, making 9.79p for the year compared with 6.75p in 1985. Its share in Pan Books will increase from a third to a half next year.

## Cambridge forecast

Cambridge Instruments, the international precision instruments group, is forecasting pretax profits of £7.5 million for the year to end-March in the pathfinder prospectus to its flotation this month. This compares with £5 million for last year. Kleinwort Benson will be offering 36.3 million ordinary shares, of which 28 million will be new shares, with the balance being sold by existing shareholders.

STOCK MARKET

# TI rises on hopes of deal over cooker division

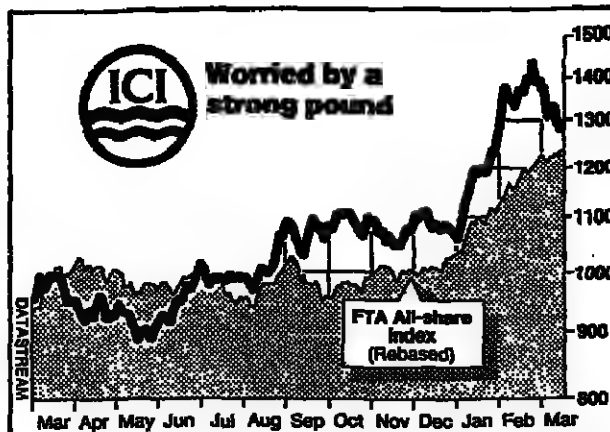
By Michael Clark

TI Group made a late gain yesterday, climbing 10p to 665p amid speculation that it had found a buyer for its domestic appliances side, which includes Creda cookers. The group announced earlier this month that it planned to dispose of its domestic appliances division as the next phase in its restructuring programme. A number of potential buyers have been mentioned, including Hepworth Ceramic, which has just sold its remaining 5 per cent stake in Birmid Qualcast. But there has also been talk that Polly Peck, the international trader headed by Mr. Asil Nadir, may also be after a chunk of the business. There has also been talk that an American bank may have a client lined up with an offer.

Dealers are convinced that a deal is close at hand and are bracing themselves for an announcement next week. The rest of the equity market was in a ragged retreat, caught off-guard by the news that the Government plans to sell its remaining 32 per cent stake in BP, which is worth almost £5 billion. BP closed above its worst levels of the day, being 12p lower at 816p.

One leading broker said optimistically: "It is likely to be favourably received if offered in part-paid form." Nervous selling led the FT index of 30 shares 11.7 points lower at 1,377.8 by 4 pm, while the FT-SE 100 was down by 15.6 at 1,991.0 at the close after earlier attempts at a rally proved short-lived. Worries about renewed insider trading scandals on Wall Street did little to help sentiment.

Government securities spent a quieter day with prices at the longer end of the market closing with small gains of about 2%. ICI earned a lot of its profits from West Germany and the pound's recent strength against the mark is making its products less competitive. But Mr. Stuart Wansley, a chemicals analyst at Greenwell Montagu, the broker, believes the market has overreacted. Mr. Wansley said: "The market has been totally stupid about the whole thing." He points out that in the summer of 1985, the mark stood at DM4 to the pound and has since fallen to DM2.80. Mr. Wansley added: "ICI cannot even begin to start



having qualms about the rate until it gets back up to around the DM3.25 level. It's ludicrous. Another good opportunity to start buying ICI." The insurance composites ran into some early, nervous selling following a report by Morgan Grenfell Securities, the broker, which claims that the "big five" may be forced to pay the Inland Revenue an extra £168 million in tax. This follows the proposed changes by the Inland Revenue in its tax treatment of the insurance companies' loss reserves. The Inland Revenue

in the market suggested that GCC, America's biggest independent bottler, had given up the idea of trying to increase its stake despite receiving permission from the SEC recently. ICI remained a weak market, worried by the effects of the strong pound on its sizeable export programme. The price closed above its worst levels of the day, but was still 3p lower at £12.77 - stretching the fall, so far this week, to 59p and wiping £382 million from the group's stock market value.

has argued that the insurance companies should be paying more tax on their loss reserves, because increasing the amount reduces the level of pretax profits. Loss reserves of the insurance composites stood at £2.6 billion in 1985. General Accident, which may be forced to stump up an extra £50 million, fell 13p to 940p. There were also set-backs for Commercial Union, 4p to 317p and San Alliance, 7p to 772p. But Guardian Royal Exchange, down 2p at 922p, and Royal Insurance, 1p easier at 978p, after 967p, managed to claw back much of their earlier losses.

Property shares were sparked into action following details of a trio of takeovers. On the Far East, the Hong Kong & Shanghai Banking Corp. is paying £10 million for Bridge Hall Group, a privately-owned property developer, while Mr. Nigel Wray's Gilbert House is offering almost £70 million for Centromedical Estates, 40p higher at 318p.

Meanwhile, another USM property group, Local London Group, 65p lower at 565p, has launched an agreed, £43 million bid for Standard Securities, up 13p at 253p. Coloroll, the fast-growing wallcoverings group, is hoping to buy the tableware division of Crown House. But hopes that Coloroll would make a full bid for Crown House have now evaporated.

FRANKFURT: Shares tumbled in moderately active trading on massive foreign selling. The Commerzbank index dropped by 47.8 points to close at 1,633.8. TOKYO: Prices slipped on heavy volume. Buying from unitised pension funds and large securities houses eased in the face of coming settlement dates.

The Nikkei Dow index fell from 21,705.06 to 21,644.32. HONG KONG: The market drifted to a mixed finish in moderate trading. The Hang Seng index closed at 2,721.28, against Wednesday's 2,724.01.

ALPHA STOCKS

Company	Volume '000	Company	Volume '000	Company	Volume '000
Allied-Lyons	2,200	Gen Accident	380	Redland	380
Amrad	5,100	GEC	6,100	Reckitt Colman	194
ASDA-MFI	1,900	Glen	2,800	Reed Int	1,200
Ass By Foods	315	Globe IT	757	Reiters	428
BEL	673	Granada	1,200	RMC Group	239
BTR	1,900	Grand Met	2,800	RTZ	2,000
BAT	8,000	GLS A	614	Rover	2,000
Barclays	1,200	GPI	250	Royal B of Scot	257
Bee	721	GKN	1,700	Royal Ins	2,100
Bentley	1,600	Guinness	11,000	Sasol	1,800
Blue Circle	694	Hammerman Pty A	2,700	Saturn (J)	750
BOC	604	Hartford	859	Sears	3,000
Bovis	3,600	Hawthor Sidelity	2,700	Sedgwick Gp	972
BPL Ind	348	Hilldown	2,100	STC	2,500
BPC	206	Imp Chem Ind	2,800	Smith & Nephew	2,400
Br Aerospace	877	Imp Cont Gax	280	STC	627
Br Airways	22,000	Jaguar	1,600	Storehouse	2,100
Br Gas	1,200	Leeds	3,000	Sun Alliance	239
Br Petroleum	15,000	Land Securities	1,700	Tarmac	1,100
Br Telecom	9,400	Lloyds	621	TSB PYP	20,000
British	17,000	Lloyds	621	Tesco	384
Brown	1,500	Martin & Spence	4,700	Thorn EM	2,000
Cable & Wireless	12,000	MSPC	539	Trusthouse Forte	5,300
Cadbury Schwepp	8,000	Midland	288	Unigate	324
Carson	1,400	New West	1,400	Unilever	822
Com Utd	2,000	P & O Div	559	Unid Chemicals	2,600
Cons Goldfields	377	Pearson	1,100	Wellcome	5,100
Coventry Gp	1,800	Pittsburgh Bros	459	Whitehead A	259
Crest	1,500	Plasma	17,000	Woodward	840
Demo Corp	2,300	Prudential	4,500	Stock prices on page 27	
Dynas Gp	304	Racal Elect	1,600		
English China	753	Rank Org	353		
Fluoro		Rank Hovis			

WALL STREET

# Dow drops 6 points as oil shares fall back

New York (Agencies) - Share prices remained slightly depressed in moderate, early trading yesterday. Mr. Jon Grovesman of Laidlaw's said: "The market is keeping the market subdued."

Oil shares, which had been leaders for the previous two days, gave some ground. The Dow Jones industrial average slipped by 5.96 to 2,280.97. Advancing and declining shares were about evenly matched on a volume of 45 million shares. American Express rose by 1/2 to 79 1/2. It is holding talks on possible equity investment by Nippon Life Insurance in

Mar 18	Mar 17	Mar 18	Mar 17	Mar 18	Mar 17
Amgen	54 1/2	55 1/2	Freestone	38 1/2	39 1/2
Amgen	54 1/2	55 1/2	Freestone	38 1/2	39 1/2
Amgen	54 1/2	55 1/2	Freestone	38 1/2	39 1/2
Amgen	54 1/2	55 1/2	Freestone	38 1/2	39 1/2
Amgen	54 1/2	55 1/2	Freestone	38 1/2	39 1/2
Amgen	54 1/2	55 1/2	Freestone	38 1/2	39 1/2
Amgen	54 1/2	55 1/2	Freestone	38 1/2	39 1/2
Amgen	54 1/2	55 1/2	Freestone	38 1/2	39 1/2
Amgen	54 1/2	55 1/2	Freestone	38 1/2	39 1/2
Amgen	54 1/2	55 1/2	Freestone	38 1/2	39 1/2

COMPANY NEWS

● JONES & SHIPMAN: Total payment for 1986 4.15p (3.5p). Turnover £21.05 million (£19.91 million). Pretax profit £2.3 million (£2.12 million). Earnings per share 14.2p (15.3p).

● SECURIGUARD GROUP: The annual meeting was held that the first three months of the current year have confirmed the board's confidence with record sales across the group's range of activities. In particular, the contribution made by the businesses has encouraged further optimism.

● COUNTRYSIDE PROPERTIES: Mr. AH Cherry, the chairman, told the annual meeting that the group's trading and prospects have further improved. He was confident of more significant progress.

● GR SCHOLES: Half-year for December 31. Interim dividend 4.5p (4p, restated), payable on May 15. Turnover £15.39 million (£14.13 million). Pretax profit £2.79 million (£2.44 million). Earnings per share 13.7p (11.5p). The board reports that the second half has started in an encouraging manner and it expects to continue at an improved level of activity.

● PACIFIC DUNLOP: The company has acquired the remaining 50 per cent of Saine Pty. Saine's operations will become part of South Pacific Tyres, the newly-formed tyre-manufacturing and marketing venture between Pacific Dunlop and Goodyear.

● SUTROM: Total dividend for 1986 2.2p (2.2p). Turnover £16.07 million (£14.82 million). Pretax profit £1.08 million (£1.25 million). Earnings per share 6.9p (8.9p).

● ROTUNDA: Dividend 1p for 1986. Turnover £11.32 million (£11.15 million). Pretax profit £1 million (£611,000). Earnings per share 9.6p (9.4p).

● LAND SECURITIES: The company plans to issue £100 million, 9.5 per cent bonds, due 2007, at 95.75 per cent through an international syndicate lead-managed by J Henry Schroder Wagg. Net proceeds will be used to finance property acquisitions, developments, refurbishments and to acquire additional interests.

● PEARSON: Camco Inc, part of the group's oil services section, and Baker International Corporation have signed a letter of intent covering Camco's purchase from Baker of almost all the business of Reed Tool. Reed, a leading manufacturer of drilling bits, had sales for 1986 of about \$76 million (£47 million).

● TSW-TELEVISION: SOUTH WEST: Six months to January 31. Interim dividend 0.83p (0.64p), payable on May 21. Turnover £16.56 million (£14.66 million). Pretax profit £1.8 million (£1.1 million). Earnings per share 5.10p (3.09p). The board explains that the profit increase is due partly to the reduction in the Excise duty levy.

● CPI HOLDINGS: Total dividend 2p for the 15 months to December 31, compared with 2p for the previous 12 months. Pretax profit £1,559,000 (£1,066,000), against £1,474,000 (£1,259,000). Extraordinary dividend £20,000 (nil). Earnings per share 2.1p (2.4p).

More company news is on page 25

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Superdrug

PRELIMINARY RESULTS

52 weeks to 28th February 1987	1987	1986
Turnover (excluding VAT)	£202,912	£164,289
Trading Profit	12,917	10,253
Net Interest (Payable)/Receivable	(659)	102
Net Profit before tax	12,258	10,355
Taxation	4,823	3,845
Net Profit after tax	7,435	6,510
Final Dividends	2,035	1,752
Earnings per Share	21.19p	18.58p

- Turnover increased by 23.51%
- Trading Profit increased by 25.98%
- Proposed final dividend of 3.5p (interim 2.3p) Total for year 5.8p (1986 - 5.0p)
- Own label products 34% of turnover
- 43 new branches opened
- Productivity gains from Northern Regional Distribution Centre

In a year which has seen intensive competition in the High Street we are pleased to report a trading profit increase of 26%. This is an excellent performance, especially when considering that the Northern Regional Distribution Centre is still operating at less than half capacity but is already producing productivity gains for the whole company. In the early part of the financial year we will pass the 300 store landmark and the company is well based to continue our expansion programme with over 50 new stores planned to open in the coming year.

# Sunny results with an excellent long term outlook.

Legal & General Group Plc - Summary of 1986 Results (Unaudited)	1986	1985
Profit from operations	£m	£m
Life and pensions profits (excl. USA)	45.9	43.8
USA life profits	6.2	8.9
Fund management profits	4.7	6.5
General insurance and reinsurance profits (losses)	4.3	(29.0)
Other profits	0.5	1.3
Total pre-tax profit before exceptional item	61.6	31.5
Exceptional life and pensions profit	21.4	-
Total pre-tax profit	83.2	31.5
Taxation	(13.2)	4.7
Employee profit share	(1.4)	-
Group profit before extraordinary item	68.6	36.2
Extraordinary item after taxation	-	1.5
Group profit for shareholders	68.6	37.7
Earnings per share (Based on profit before extraordinary item)	14.85p	7.86p
Dividend per share	9.75p	8.17p

REPORT AND ACCOUNTS FOR 1986 The results contained in this statement, upon which the auditors have not yet reported, constitute abridged accounts within the meaning of the Companies Act 1985. The audited Report and Accounts for 1986 will be posted to shareholders on April 14th 1987, and delivered to the Registrar of Companies following the Annual General Meeting to be held on May 13th 1987. A final dividend for 1986 of 6.5p per share is proposed.

Despite the difficult climate of the past few years we are pleased to announce that 1986 produced a satisfactory improvement over the previous year.

This considerable achievement has been made possible by the enthusiastic determination of our various businesses.

UK Life & Pensions

The reshaping of our Bonus structure has produced increased payment to with profit policyholders and an exceptional profit of £21.4 for shareholders. Our market leading "low start" mortgage contracts have been very successful and, as fixed premium increases for these contracts come into effect, we expect to see further growth over the next few years. There are many indications of renewed growth in the pensions market. To this end 1986 saw the launch of the Self-employed Plan and the Director's Plan as well as an improved Buy-Out Plan. 1987 will be a year of momentous change due to new financial legislation. We are ready to capitalise on new opportunities.

UK General Insurance

New premium rates have cushioned us against our exposure to claims during 1986 and buoyant market conditions have helped us maintain or increase our volumes despite these increases. Premiums have increased across the board giving us a rise

Investment

The past year saw dramatic rises in world security prices, high base rates, a drop in the value of the dollar and the continuation of the government's privatisation programme. Property has continued to be a highly stable investment and we currently manage about £2.5bn worth of property. Unit trusts have been particularly successful. As well as launching three new trusts our Far Eastern Trust proved to be the industry's top performer. Total sales increased sixfold.

International

The overall international operations contribution to group pre-tax profits was £10.3m in 1986 as opposed to a loss in 1985. We have been taking positive measures to maintain our position in the competitive world markets. 1986 saw investment to continue the rapid growth of our Dutch operation, the provision of further capital for Victory our specialist reinsurance subsidiary and the formation of a new French subsidiary. Our aim for the future remains to pursue long term growth and an increasing contribution to group profits from international operations.

The Future

The results for 1986 have been very encouraging. It has long been part of our culture to remain alert and responsive to change and we remain committed to investing in technology to improve efficiency and management skills. We will continue to provide market-driven services to all our many customers, and we are confident of a sunny outlook for many years to come. To find out more, reserve your own copy of our forthcoming annual report, send us the coupon below.

Please send me a copy of the forthcoming Legal & General Annual Report 1986. Send to: Corporate PR Department, Legal & General Group Plc, Temple Court, 11 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4N 4TP.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_





## THE TIMES CITY DIARY

### Adding to problems

The Advertising Standards Authority is on red alert to investigate a series of misleading quarter-page advertisements placed in four national newspapers yesterday by Rowland "Tiny" Rowland's Lonrho group. "We have received a complaint and we will be investigating it when we get it in writing," says the ASA. The advertisement, placed on the eve of Lonrho's annual meeting, claims to show a chart of the Lonrho share price relative to the FT All-Share index, but the chart reproduced shows the Lonrho share price significantly outperforming the FT All-Share. In reality, the index has been hitting new peaks and Lonrho has underperformed it over the past 12 months by more than 15 per cent on average. Red faces now stretch from Walter Judd, the agency which placed the ad - at an estimated cost of £13,000 - to Capel-Cure Myers, the brokers who prepared it, and the company itself. An embarrassed Mervyn Greenaway of CCM says: "Technically the chart is correct, it's just that a draughtsman wrongly labelled it. If you're after a cheap story, I suppose the small print could be seen as misleading."



"It's either post-Budget euphoria or a surfeit of unleaded petrol"

### Acting up

In his wind-up speech on the third day of the Budget debate yesterday the Treasury's walking Warden, Minister of State Peter Brooke, announced a number of initiatives to help small firms and the self-employed with tax matters. Among them, to show the Revenue's human face, is a video called "Linda Shepherd investigates" about the Revenue's accounts investigation work. Unfortunately, it turns out that "Linda Shepherd" is not a tax inspector at all but an actress. What price humanity? £50 plus VAT.

### Press gang

It's enough to make stockbrokers and fund managers quake in their Church's brogues. Fleet Street's powerful posse of stock market reporters - that steady bunch of hacks who frequent the Throgmorton Street bars on an almost daily basis - are gearing up to form the "Stock Market Correspondents' Club". If you notice certain companies getting more than their fair share of either criticism or praise in the Press towards the end of next week, the chances are that they were the subject of well-informed discussion at the Club's inaugural luncheon meeting at The Square Mile Club next Wednesday. Members of the Club so far include correspondents from seven national and two London newspapers and they plan to rendezvous once a month. You have been warned.

For the first time in its 225-year history the annual report from Barratt's, London's oldest and most discreet merchant bank, includes a photograph - of the main board. As befits its reputation the photographer was none other than Lord Snowdon. "We decided that if we were going to have a photograph we ought to have a good one," says the chairman, Sir John Barratt. "Most of us have known Lord Snowdon for years."

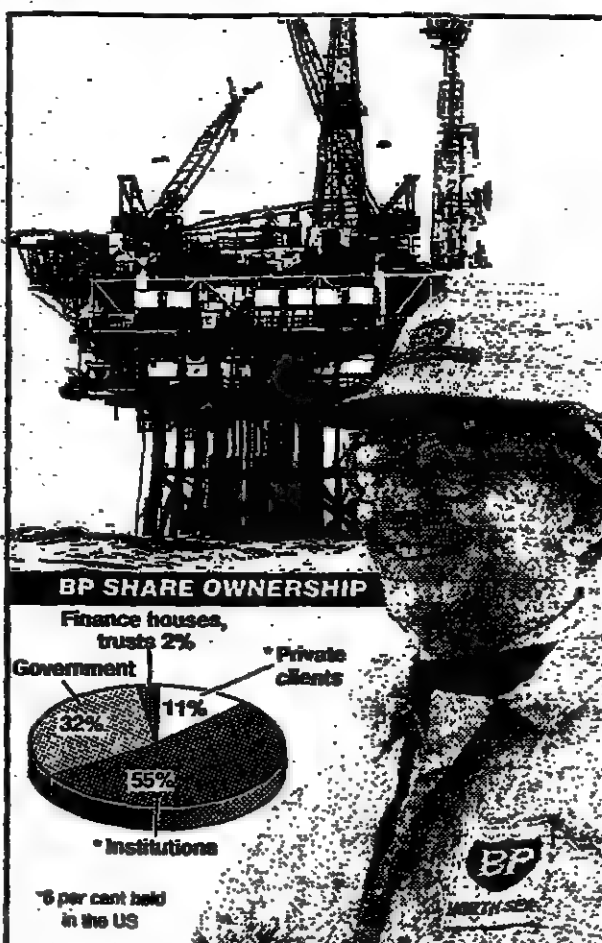
### US lifeboat

Nine of the now defunct market makers from stockbroker Greenwell Montagu have found themselves a new job - less than a week after Greenwell's parent Midland Bank announced its decision to cease market making in equities. All nine are joining Scrimgeour Vickers, part of the American giant Citicorp, bringing its total market making team to 60. One of the nine has still to be named but the others are Winfield Essex, Christopher Gaites, Kenneth Gankersker, Alan Gordon, John Heaphy, Scarle and Humphris. Barry Scrimgeour, William Sharp, Scrimgeour, which at present makes markets in only two sectors - chemicals and stores - is planning to move into others. "We haven't yet decided which one," says senior director Bob Wade.

Carol Leonard

# BP on the trail of the small shareholder

The Government's £4.8bn BP share sale may have surprised the markets post-Budget. But crucial questions of when and how have yet to be answered



Search for shareholders: Sir Peter Walters, chairman of BP

If there was any surprise at yesterday's announcement that the Government plans to sell its BP shareholding in the next financial year, it amounted to no more than the odd mildly-raised eyebrow over its decision to sell all 32 per cent. Many fund managers had pencilled in a disposal of some sort for this year. But until details of the sale are announced, the uncertainty surrounding BP shares is undiminished - and may even be heightened. The company still has a 32 per cent shareholding wanting to dispose of its shares in the next financial year. We know nothing more. The shareholding has merely confirmed the sale will take place sooner rather than later, leaving unanswered all the important questions, such as when, how and where the shares will be sold.

Timing the disposal will be more than usually delicate, not least because of the importance of oil price sentiment on the share price. For the time of year, the market is unusually confident about Opec's ability to restrain its production to maintain prices. Huge stock drawdowns are testing Opec to the limit. Some observers put Opec output as low as 13.5 million barrels a day, which is keeping the spot price over \$18 for April Brent, and \$17.60 for June. The market is impressed - for now. But as the Government discovered to its cost in the Britoil flotation, the oil market is capricious and unpredictable. In the oil sector there is plenty of time between the issue of the prospectus and receipt of share applications for a favourable market to turn into a calamity. The timing of the general

election will also be a factor. An October election might imply a June sale, were it not for the heavy cash calls already outstanding from the recent big privatization issues. June is probably the earliest the Government could be ready to sell, judging by past form. But in that month, investors will need to cough up £1.8 billion for the call on British Gas and £430 million for British Airways. A June election, on the other hand, might indicate an October sale. This would comfortably follow the second TSB call of £750 million due in August. The Government is likely to want to time the sale to maximize receipts, implying that all the shares will be sold in a single exercise rather than in tranches.

But the British market would suffer acute indignation if it had to cope with an issue of this size, valued at £4.8 billion at the current price, unless the shares were sold on a partly-paid basis. This might be tricky where the fully-paid shares are also in circulation, but not impossible. A more attractive alternative might be to offer as much as half the shares, equivalent to 15 per cent of BP's issued capital, to overseas investors. Less than 6 per cent of BP's shares are held overseas by both private and institutional investors, mainly in the United States. There are good reasons for believing that US and Japanese investors would be interested in buying BP. US institutions are still seriously underweight in the oils. Since dumping the sector in the

early 1980s, many fund managers are still scrambling to return to it. And a weakening dollar makes British oils particularly attractive.

The Japanese, faced with average multiples of 50 in Tokyo, could find BP's prospective multiple of just more than 9, allied with a 6.4 per cent yield, irresistible. BP's Tokyo listing should be through in June, giving the Japanese time to familiarize themselves with the company.

British institutional investors are also underweight in BP. Because of Government, private and overseas shareholdings, the average British institutional weighting in BP is only 55 per cent of the index. Ideally, many institutions would prefer to be overweight in the sector and have had to look elsewhere.

If the oils remain in favour, British institutions will not wish to see too many shares go overseas or into private hands. But recent privatization successes have whetted the appetite of the private investors.

The institutions would like to see a placing as this would enable them to improve their weightings. The stockbrokers and market-makers would like to see some preference or incentive for existing shareholders, giving them some priority in application to ensure the price does not weaken too much.

But, before joining the unseemly scramble for shares, investors should ask themselves whether BP is a good investment. Is it a top quality company in a high growth industry?

Oil industry fundamentals are not good. Demand for oil is growing only very slowly. It is a matter of luck as much as skill whether drilling wells results in oil finds. And the price of the product is politically determined by Opec. Share prices, as a result, tend to be driven by sentiment and highly volatile.

As for BP, it has done a stupendous job over the past five years under the guiding hand of Sir Peter Walters, the chairman. It has totally restructured its refining operations, reducing its cost base significantly, and has also taken Standard Oil, its wayward US subsidiary, in hand.

On balance, and taking technical factors into account, initial soundings indicate that, barring accidents, demand will be brisk. As one stockbroker put it: "People don't usually part for BP, but the Government will manage to engineer something so that people will be parting for it." Let's hope the oil price holds up.

Carol Ferguson

## COMMENT Kenneth Fleet

# Tiny Rowland among the Lonrho faithful

Lonrho, the most intriguing and controversial large company in the Stock Exchange list, has three assets which its balance sheet may reflect but does not record: a host of devoted private shareholders eager to touch the hem of Roland "Tiny" Rowland's robe; the chief executive's single-mindedness, intelligence and street-fighting skills; and the oil velvet smoothness of ex future Tory Party leader Sir Edward du Cann who has a consummate ability to handle meetings and charm birds out of trees. While the Messianic Tiny brooded silently, Sir Edward dispensed his prescriptions and the faithful were in full cry for the people they perceived as enemies in their midst.

The latter figure may have been included in arriving at the earlier figures of profit. This suggests that the assets sold, together, for £10.1 million more than they cost originally were sold for £23 million less than the figure they were valued at in the balance sheet.

6 The accounts do not mention the sale of Lonrho's investment in Reuters, which according to the company's brokers realized a profit of £15 million. The brokers may have got it wrong but if not, it would be helpful to know where the profit was accounted for.

7 The balance of the revaluation reserve, taken together with the share capital and the share premium account, totals £721 million. This exceeds the total of shareholders' funds (£614 million) by more than £100 million. Lonrho seems to have a policy of keeping certain losses in separate category called "other reserves", which has a negative balance larger than the profit and loss account balance.

8 Lonrho might also usefully shed light on its method of accounting for foreign exchange gains. There is some dispute whether it complies with standard accounting practice (auditor Peat Marwick obviously believes it does). But it may have resulted in an overstatement of the reported profit for last year. Lonrho's critics go as far as suggesting that the balance on profit and loss account in the group balance sheet should show accumulated losses.

These points may seem technical, which they are, and trivial, which they are not. Unless they are dealt with calmly and convincingly by the company and its auditor, the idolatry of Lonrho and Mr Rowland among the faithful is excessive.

## Little Mo's day

What a difference a target makes. Sterling M3, an Oliver Reed among money supply measures, was finally banished on Tuesday, having behaved outrageously for far too long. But M0, trotting along in the middle of its target range, is suddenly everybody's darling.

The fall in M0 of 0.75 to 1 per cent was, it is true, better than the market had expected. And the 12-month growth rate of 4 to 4.25 per cent is nicely in the middle of the target range. So there is scope for that other half-point cut in base rates before too long.

But the most interesting implications, as far as the gilt market is concerned, come through from the breakdown of the broad money figures. Credit is strong, as we all know, the £2.9 billion bank lending increase last month represented a step up from the high £2.6 billion average of the previous six months.

More immediately interesting is the funding position. At the end of February, the public sector borrowing requirement was overfunded by £4 billion. The cumulative PSBR for the same period was just £0.1 billion. And so, the Bank is nicely set up for exact funding of the £4 billion PSBR the Chancellor estimated.

A big unfunded PSBR, coupled with even moderately strong bank lending could produce fairly spectacular sterling M3 growth for March. The Chancellor may have hoped off the bus just in time.

## Riding the oil price roller-coaster

Last year's dramatic and precipitous fall in the oil price demonstrated how resilient oil company finances can be. BP has emerged from one of the worst recessions the oil industry can remember with a gearing ratio of only 28 per cent and net cash of \$4.1 billion. Reported net income this year at current oil prices will be about £1.7 billion. The received wisdom on oil economics is that integrated oil companies do well whether the oil price goes up or down. When the oil price rises, oil production profits increase, but not by a lot, due to penal taxes. However, exploration becomes attractive and new discoveries will allow production earnings to grow. Meanwhile, low-oiled oil refining profits fall, or more usually become losses, but this

can be offset by stock profits. When the oil price falls, the reverse happens. Exploration activity is reduced, or stops altogether, minimizing the impact on cash flow. Production earnings fall, but not by much because of the impact of taxation. But refining becomes immensely profitable, because the fall in the oil price is usually not passed on immediately or in full to customers for petrol and heating oil. And because refining profits are taxed at much lower rates, and often have offsetting tax losses, the extra profits can flow straight through to the bottom line. Stock losses will remove some of the benefits. The relative importance of the two sources of profit to any individual oil company varies widely.

In BP's case, it suffered from low oil prices more than many of its competitors in the oil industry for three main reasons: 1. Most of its production profits come from oil. It has very little gas production, which would have given some protection, since the gas price has hardly fallen at all; 2. A high proportion of its oil production is very high-cost Alaskan crude; 3. Although its refining operations have improved out of all recognition, it remains a slightly higher cost refiner than some of its competitors. Because of its high exposure to the oil price, BP is more risky than most integrated oil companies, but the 6.4 per cent yield helps to compensate for this.

## TEMPUS Barratt's southern comfort

Times are still hard at Barratt. Although profits are moving in the right direction, unit sales are not.

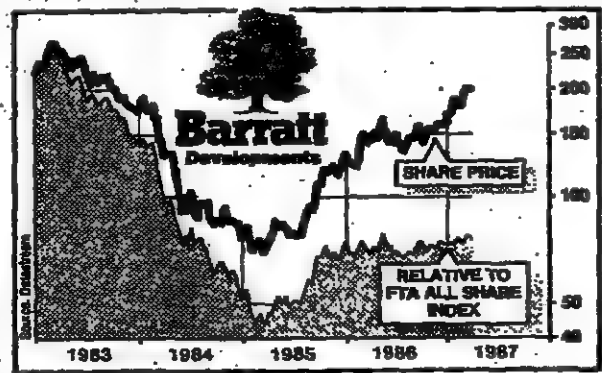
Admittedly, the strategy for recovery, outlined two years ago, was to improve margins rather than chase volumes, but there is a case for saying that a widening of margins to the 10 per cent target will be hard to achieve if volumes do not pick up - housebuilding is a prime example of volume gains bringing considerable economies of scale.

In the six months to the end of last December, Barratt sold 3,300 homes in Britain, 11 per cent fewer than in the first six months of 1985-86. In the 12 months to the end of June, it looks very unlikely that the group will sell more than the 8,100 units of 1985-86. A third of British sales by volume are south of Watford Gap but, owing to the higher prices prevailing there, this part of the country accounts for 40 per cent of sales by value.

Barratt's decision to move into the second-time buyer market, which now accounts for nearly 70 per cent of its customers, and to increase the proportion of luxury Premier Range homes has been successful in the affluent South, but selling houses in the rest of the country remains very difficult.

The shortage of suitable sites has increased the delays experienced by all housebuilders but it seems that Barratt's programme to convert many of its sites to Premier Range may have exacerbated its position with the planners.

The cost and shortage of land has drawn Barratt into the inner cities which now account for half of its British



operations. Margins there can be lower, particularly if developments are done in conjunction with local authorities or other partners. Also much of the financing of these is off balance sheet. The US is on a much firmer footing. Land sales - a significant feature last year - have now virtually ceased. This was the principal reason for the 13 per cent reduction in group half-year turnover.

First-half unit sales in the US were down from 600 to 500, although the target for the year is still 1,200. Again the priority is to improve margins. Barratt sold 3,500 time-share weeks in the half year compared to 3,000 the year before. It should sell 7,000 weeks in a full year, which would contribute nearly £35 million to turnover.

Commercial property and construction made a modest contribution to profits. Borrowings are in check at about £60 million. Barratt aims to keep gearing close to 25 per cent.

It is still unclear when the housing market will turn down, although some additional support may be forthcoming from liberated coun-

ty house buyers wishing to trade up. It is taking Barratt longer to recover than the enthusiasts thought. This year, profits will still fall well short of £40 million and it may be 1988-89 before the magic figure of £50 million is reclaimed. In the meantime, Barratt will remain a stock attractive primarily for its yield.

## Pleasurama

Pleasurama, which wants you to have fun at its casinos and hotels, and on its coach tours and fruit machines, is not talking about the sudden departure in January of George Martin, the former managing director. And because it happened in January, shareholders will be left in the dark about compensation payments until 1988 at the earliest, when this year's accounts are to hand.

That is a pity, because the unanswered questions could cloud otherwise attractive investment prospects, enhanced by yesterday's year-end results, showing pretax profits up from £37.5 million to £42.3 million, and a better dividend. There was also a one-for-one capitalization issue. Clearly the row was all about where - and how - Pleasurama moves from its traditional casino base. Yesterday's message from the restructured board was that Pleasurama, this year and beyond, will rely more heavily on non-casino interests - not a bad thing given that casinos can be fickle business. Last year, tourists and the high rollers avoided London in the wake of fears about Libya, and the net effect was a decline in London casino profits. The 17 provincial casinos advanced, and coupled with a stronger contribution from the group's amusement machine division, helped by the holiday and leisure interests, group profits rolled ahead again. The balance sheet is healthy and year-end gearing negligible. The planned capital expenditure this year of more than £30 million should easily be funded internally and further acquisitions cannot be ruled out. Last year, Pleasurama bought Norscot Hotels, giving it 34 outlets and 2,700 bedrooms. A divisional profits breakdown would clearly help, but leisure is likely to play an increasing role in the profits table and the casino interests should enjoy a better year. All told, profits should move forward to the £53 million area this year, putting the shares - at 365p, up 8p yesterday - on a prospective p/e ratio of 11. The shares fell out of favour after touching 391p a year ago but evidence that further and broader growth is possible should give them a sporting chance of seeing peak levels again.

"...there is an overwhelming case for a strong investment trust sector, and I believe that the future for investment trusts now looks brighter than it has for many years."

David Hopkinson, Chairman, The United States Debenture Corporation.

Investment trusts as a whole have proved for both private individuals and institutional investors an excellent medium for long term investment. They provide stockholders with a professionally and economically managed vehicle which can have a general investment policy with the freedom to change weightings in world markets radically and rapidly to reflect current prospects. Moreover, they have the ability to produce additional returns by borrowings and by investment in unquoted companies.

## The success of USDC

USDC operates as a general fund, aiming to provide shareholders with balanced long term growth of capital by investment in an international spread of shares and stock markets. Over the year to 31 December 1986 the Total Net Assets of USDC rose to £243.9m, an increase of 28.2%.

Over the last three years it has been amongst the twenty most successful investment trusts in the U.K.

## Summary of Results

	1986 £'000s	1985 £'000s	% change
Stockholders Net Assets	£243,943	£190,363	+28.2
FT Act. All Share Index	835.48	682.94	+22.34
Standard & Poors Comp. Index	242.17	211.28	+14.62
Dividend per stock unit	6.52p	6.52p	No Change
*Adjusted to allow for the change in the exchange rate.			

## The threat to investment trusts

The investment trust sector is currently under attack from a number of opportunistic predators. The Board of USDC believes its continuing existence is vital, not just for private individuals and institutional investors but also in terms of the stock market and economy as a whole.

It will be tragic if the future of investment trusts is to be determined by the views of a small number of large institutions, apparently against the wishes of the majority of stockholders. Vote for The Board proposals on March 26th.

For further information write to: THE UNITED STATES DEBENTURE CORPORATION p.l.c. 8th Floor, 8 Devonshire Square, London EC2M 4VJ

(Source: Money Magazine, March)







## APPOINTMENTS

Satellite Technology Systems: Mr Andrew Thornton has been made sales and marketing director.

Barclays de Zoete Wedd Europe: Mr John Henson and Mrs Irene Zalesky become directors. Mr Peter Hillier becomes a director. Barclays de Zoete Wedd Research: Taylor Woodrow Energy: Mr Dick Pemberton and Mr John Smith have been appointed directors. Mr Peter Jordan becomes a divisional director.

Gramplan Television: Mr Donald Waters is to succeed Mr Alex Mair as chief executive in November.

Royal Trust Bank: Mr Michael Towsley has been made divisional director, property finance.

Distributed Information Processing: Sir Kenneth Corfield has been appointed chairman.

Southern Business Group: Mr William Shaw joins the board as a non-executive director.

Multitone Communication Systems: Mr Bill Hollins has been appointed marketing director and joins the board.

WestAvon: Mr Jonathan Bradley has been appointed sole managing director.

## FOREIGN EXCHANGES

## STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Market rates	March 19	1 month	3 months
New York	1.0000-1.0000	0.49-0.49pm	1.25-1.25pm
London	2.1055-2.1102	0.58-0.58pm	1.34-1.34pm
Amsterdam	3.1250-3.1257	1.10-1.10pm	2.50-2.50pm
Brussels	60.78-61.02	1.10-1.10pm	2.50-2.50pm
Cologne	11.0204-11.0201	1.10-1.10pm	2.50-2.50pm
Dusseldorf	1.0224-1.0218	1.10-1.10pm	2.50-2.50pm
Frankfurt	2.3355-2.3352	1.10-1.10pm	2.50-2.50pm
Geneva	2.3355-2.3352	1.10-1.10pm	2.50-2.50pm
Madrid	225.25-225.72	1.10-1.10pm	2.50-2.50pm
Milano	208.20-208.07	1.10-1.10pm	2.50-2.50pm
Oslo	11.0752-11.1192	1.10-1.10pm	2.50-2.50pm
Paris	1.7555-1.7552	1.10-1.10pm	2.50-2.50pm
Stockholm	10.2384-10.2372	1.10-1.10pm	2.50-2.50pm
Tokyo	242.45-242.55	1.10-1.10pm	2.50-2.50pm
Zurich	2.4544-2.4541	1.10-1.10pm	2.50-2.50pm

Other sterling rates	Dollar spot rates
Argentina austral	2.4890-2.4703
Australia dollar	2.3325-2.3321
Bahrian dinar	0.9930-0.9970
Brazil cruzeiro	32.4757-32.5550
Cyprus pound	0.7700-0.7700
Denmark krone	7.1725-7.1725
France franc	173.00-173.00
Germany mark	2.4890-2.4703
Hong Kong dollar	7.7555-7.7552
India rupee	20.45-20.45
Italy lira	2.0450-2.0450
Malaysia dollar	4.0450-4.0450
Mexico peso	173.00-173.00
New Zealand dollar	2.2555-2.2552
Norway kroner	5.0000-5.0000
Portugal escudo	3.4314-3.4314
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.2555-5.2552
Singapore dollar	3.2271-3.2271
South Africa rand	5.2770-5.2770
Switzerland franc	2.0450-2.0450
Taiwan dollar	2.4890-2.4703
Thailand baht	5.2770-5.2770
Yugoslavia dinar	5.2770-5.2770

Rates supplied by Barclays Bank HOFEX and Emtel.

## COMPANY NEWS

sell the *Goole Times* and the *Goole Trader* to Goole Chronicle Publications.

● MNS FIELDS: Dividend of 3 cents for 1986. Pretax income \$17.13 million (£10.66 million), against \$6.75 million. Turnover \$87.1 million (£55.56 million).

● HALMA: The purchase of Kerry Ultrasonics from Burnham Oil has been completed for \$2.15 million. Kerry, which is based in Hertfordshire, manufactures ultrasonic cleaning and welding equipment. It will form part of the company's machinery and services division.

● MAI: Six months to December 31, interim dividend of 3p. Turnover £140.8 million (£148.25 million). Pretax profit £26.54 million (£26.04 million). Extraordinary earnings £8.71 million (£8.71 million). Earnings per share 25.7p (21.5p).

● RENTOKIL GROUP: Total dividend 2.8p (2.44p) for 1986. Turnover £166.9 million (£148.25 million). Pretax profit £13.26 million (£12.04 million). Extraordinary earnings £8.71 million (£8.71 million). Earnings per share 9.60p (7.98p). The board expects 1987 to be another good trading year.

● EUGEN MACKAY: Total dividend for 1986 5.5p (4.6p). Turnover £19.19 million (£15.29 million). Pretax profit £1.01 million (£1.01 million). Earnings per share 13.29p (7.78p).

● CAMBRIDGE ELECTRONIC INDUSTRIES: Total dividend 8p (7.45p) for 1986. Turnover £132.42 million (£135.65 million). Pretax profit £10.11 million (£10.27 million). Extraordinary charge £1.95 million (£359,000). Earnings per share 14.7p (15.7p).

● EMAP: The company has acquired East Yorkshire Newspapers from United Provincial Newspapers. EYN will be a separate company in EMAP's newspaper division. EMAP is to

## MEPC investors urged to block Oldham bid

By Cliff Feltham

Shareholders in MEPC, the property group, are being urged to throw out the board's £510 million bid for the Oldham Estate Company, built up by Mr Harry Hyams, the developer.

At a special meeting on Monday, MEPC shareholders will be asked to approve the issue of new shares to pay for the acquisition. A hard hitting report issued today by Kleinwort Greaveson Securities urges them to block the deal.

Kleinwort analysts claim the bid for Oldham looks defensive, aimed at protecting MEPC from any unwanted predator, and say it is questionable whether the takeover will increase the net asset value and earnings per share.

"If part of the justification for buying the Oldham portfolio is to capitalize on the present bull market in City offices and related markets, we fear that once again MEPC will have its timing wrong."

"Many of the Oldham properties are ageing, rundown and some have problems resulting from high alumina cement. The implications are clear. After spending £500 million taking over Oldham, MEPC will have to spend further significant sums on buying out the tenants. Then, it may have to demolish the buildings. MEPC, having effectively acquired a series of development sites, will be faced with spending large sums of money on putting up new buildings."

MEPC has already acquired 68 per cent of Oldham from the Co-operative Insurance Society but most of the outstanding shares are held by Mr Hyams, who has done nothing so far to suggest he will be accepting the offer.

Mr Robin Christie, property analyst with County Securities, the broker to MEPC, disputed the Kleinwort Greaveson comments.

"MEPC knows its market. It is not looking to develop the Oldham portfolio tomorrow but over the longer term. There is a lot of potential in some of the old buildings being acquired and I don't think it will have a problem persuading tenants to move out," he said.

## Local bids £39m for Standard Securities

By Our City Staff

Local London, the office development company which was floated on the USM last September, yesterday announced a £39.3 million recommended offer for Standard Securities, the fully quoted property company.

The offer continues the remarkable growth of Local London since its shares were placed on the USM at 135p. They stood at £6.30 before yesterday's announcement — falling afterwards to £5.70.

Local London is offering 48 new shares for every 100 Standard Securities, valuing the latter at 273p a share. There is a full cash alternative of 250p a share. Standard's shares rose 13p yesterday to 253p. There is a separate offer for convertible loan stock in Standard held by Royal Life Insurance.

The maximum number of Local London shares which could be issued would represent about 52 per cent of its enlarged share capital.

Local London already has acceptances from Standard Securities' directors and other shareholders accounting for more than 48 per cent of Standard's shares. Norwich Union, which holds 15.6 per cent of the shares, has indicated that it will accept Local London's offer.

In December, Local London announced interim profits of £530,000.

## Berrill could resign at SIB

By Lawrence Lever

Top-level resignations from the Securities and Investments Board are likely if the board loses its battle with the banks over the polarization issue.

These could include the chairman, Sir Kenneth Berrill, who has made a number of speeches saying the SIB is not prepared to compromise on the issue.

Polarization is the rule formulated by the SIB which insists people selling life assurance or unit trusts should be either company representatives selling only one company's products, or indepen-



Sir Kenneth Berrill: not prepared to compromise.

building societies either to recommend only their own life assurance and unit trusts, or sell everyone else's.

The banks and building societies want to be exempted but the SIB is adamant that they should be bound.

At the moment the SIB's rule book — which includes the polarization rule — is being studied by Sir Gordon Borrie at the Office of Fair Trading. His recommendation to Mr Paul Channon, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, as to whether any of the rules are unduly anti-competitive, is expected next week.

## BASE LENDING RATES

ABN	10.00%
Adam & Company	10.50%
BCCI	10.50%
Citibank Savings	12.45%
Consolidated Credit	10.00%
Co-operative Bank	10.00%
C. Hoare & Co	10.00%
Hong Kong & Shanghai	10.00%
Lloyds Bank	10.00%
Nat Westminster	10.00%
Royal Bank of Scotland	10.00%
TSB	10.00%
Citibank NA	10.00%

† Mortgage Base Rate.

## Interest Rate Change

Allied Irish Banks plc announces that with effect from close of business on 19th March 1987, its Base Rate was reduced from 10½% to 10% p.a.

 **Allied Irish Bank**

Head Office — Belfast: 64/66 Coleman Street, London EC2R 5AL. Tel: 01-588 0691 and branches throughout the country.

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## The new Granada 2-9.

### Greater flexibility pays dividends in the city.

Few things in life are as annoying as City traffic. You may be able to cope but is your car always up to it? What you need is a car that pulls away really smoothly at low engine speeds; a car, that is, with plenty of torque.

That's the greatest asset of the new Granada V8s, the 2.9 and the 2.4. Both these refined engines develop lots of torque at low speeds. This makes them very flexible. Not only will you find them completely unflustered in stop-go traffic, but also

they accelerate more smoothly away from corners without changing down and really pour on the power when overtaking. If you'd like some figures that prove the point, we can tell you that fourth gear acceleration from 30 mph to 50 mph is 1.4 seconds faster with the new 2.9 than it was

with the 2.8.\* Not a lot on paper, but quite significant on the road. Top speeds are impressive too — 129 mph for the 2.9 and 121 mph for the 2.4.\* Apart from that, you'll be pleased to hear the 1987 Granadas are hardly changed. After all, the previous model did win eighteen major international awards including the most prestigious of all, 'Car of the Year 1986'. They're still the same stunning shape,

they're still exceptionally spacious inside, and of course, anti-lock brakes are still standard equipment in every model in the range. Also, you can still buy 1.8 and 2.0 litre models. And a 2.9 with four wheel drive. Whichever you choose, we're sure it'll be quite a success in the City.

\*Ford computed figs. for optional manual 5-speed GTR.

The new Granada  
2.9 and 2.4.





The image is a high-contrast, black and white scan of a document page. It is heavily degraded with significant noise and artifacts. A large, dark, curved shape dominates the left side, possibly a binding or a large mark. The right side contains faint, illegible text and a small, dark rectangular area near the bottom center.

## INVESTMENT TRUSTS

1



# Portfolio Gold

From your portfolio card check your eight share price movements on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily dividend figure. If it matches, you have won outright or a share of the total daily prize money stated. If you are a winner, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You must always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Gain or Loss
1	Argyll	Food	
2	Garfunkle	Food	
3	Kellogg	Industrial L-R	
4	Beaumont	Bank, Discount	
5	TSW	Cinema, TV	
6	Devenish (JA)	Food	
7	Danish S	Food	
8	Tottenham Hotspur	Leisure	
9	EIS	Industrial E-K	
10	Brown (Matthew)	Breweries	
11	WST	Industrial S-Z	
12	Banks (Sidney C)	Food	
13	Aut New Z	Bank, Discount	
14	Tomkins (PH)	Industrial S-Z	
15	Avon Rubber	Industrial A-D	
16	Brent (Chas)	Bank, Discount	
17	Beaumont (JA)	Drugs, Stores	
18	Stobart & Pitt	Industrial S-Z	
19	Metal Box	Industrial L-R	
20	England (D)	Food	
21	Bejm	Food	
22	Isack Johnson	Building, Roads	
23	Savoy Hotels 'A'	Hotels, Caterers	
24	Storehouse (JA)	Drugs, Stores	
25	Anglo Ltd	Building, Roads	
26	Ampol	Oil, Gas	
27	Int Signal & Control	Electronics	
28	BOC (JA)	Industrial A-D	
29	Chapman	Paper, Print, Adv	
30	Arco	Building, Roads	
31	Combined Tech	Industrial L-R	
32	MS Int	Industrial L-R	
33	Amec	Building, Roads	
34	Barton (JA)	Drugs, Stores	
35	Advest	Industrial A-D	
36	Br Aerospace (JA)	Motor, Aircraft	
37	Berkley Gp	Building, Roads	
38	Babcock	Industrial A-D	
39	Grampian	Cinema, TV	
40	Br Dredging	Building, Roads	
41	Central TV	Cinema, TV	
42	Cosalt	Industrial A-D	
43	Hambro	Bank, Discount	
44	Haynes Publishing	Newspapers	

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend  
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £8,000 in tomorrow's newspaper.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN

## BRITISH FUNDS

High Low Buy Price Change

SHORTS (Under Five Years)	High	Low	Buy	Price	Change
Argyll	1.10	1.05	1.08	1.07	+0.01
Garfunkle	1.10	1.05	1.08	1.07	+0.01
Kellogg	1.10	1.05	1.08	1.07	+0.01
Beaumont	1.10	1.05	1.08	1.07	+0.01
TSW	1.10	1.05	1.08	1.07	+0.01
Devenish (JA)	1.10	1.05	1.08	1.07	+0.01
Danish S	1.10	1.05	1.08	1.07	+0.01
Tottenham Hotspur	1.10	1.05	1.08	1.07	+0.01
EIS	1.10	1.05	1.08	1.07	+0.01
Brown (Matthew)	1.10	1.05	1.08	1.07	+0.01
WST	1.10	1.05	1.08	1.07	+0.01
Banks (Sidney C)	1.10	1.05	1.08	1.07	+0.01
Aut New Z	1.10	1.05	1.08	1.07	+0.01
Tomkins (PH)	1.10	1.05	1.08	1.07	+0.01
Avon Rubber	1.10	1.05	1.08	1.07	+0.01
Brent (Chas)	1.10	1.05	1.08	1.07	+0.01
Beaumont (JA)	1.10	1.05	1.08	1.07	+0.01
Stobart & Pitt	1.10	1.05	1.08	1.07	+0.01
Metal Box	1.10	1.05	1.08	1.07	+0.01
England (D)	1.10	1.05	1.08	1.07	+0.01
Bejm	1.10	1.05	1.08	1.07	+0.01
Isack Johnson	1.10	1.05	1.08	1.07	+0.01
Savoy Hotels 'A'	1.10	1.05	1.08	1.07	+0.01
Storehouse (JA)	1.10	1.05	1.08	1.07	+0.01
Anglo Ltd	1.10	1.05	1.08	1.07	+0.01
Ampol	1.10	1.05	1.08	1.07	+0.01
Int Signal & Control	1.10	1.05	1.08	1.07	+0.01
BOC (JA)	1.10	1.05	1.08	1.07	+0.01
Chapman	1.10	1.05	1.08	1.07	+0.01
Arco	1.10	1.05	1.08	1.07	+0.01
Combined Tech	1.10	1.05	1.08	1.07	+0.01
MS Int	1.10	1.05	1.08	1.07	+0.01
Amec	1.10	1.05	1.08	1.07	+0.01
Barton (JA)	1.10	1.05	1.08	1.07	+0.01
Advest	1.10	1.05	1.08	1.07	+0.01
Br Aerospace (JA)	1.10	1.05	1.08	1.07	+0.01
Berkley Gp	1.10	1.05	1.08	1.07	+0.01
Babcock	1.10	1.05	1.08	1.07	+0.01
Grampian	1.10	1.05	1.08	1.07	+0.01
Br Dredging	1.10	1.05	1.08	1.07	+0.01
Central TV	1.10	1.05	1.08	1.07	+0.01
Cosalt	1.10	1.05	1.08	1.07	+0.01
Hambro	1.10	1.05	1.08	1.07	+0.01
Haynes Publishing	1.10	1.05	1.08	1.07	+0.01

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS	High	Low	Buy	Price	Change
Argyll	1.10	1.05	1.08	1.07	+0.01
Garfunkle	1.10	1.05	1.08	1.07	+0.01
Kellogg	1.10	1.05	1.08	1.07	+0.01
Beaumont	1.10	1.05	1.08	1.07	+0.01
TSW	1.10	1.05	1.08	1.07	+0.01
Devenish (JA)	1.10	1.05	1.08	1.07	+0.01
Danish S	1.10	1.05	1.08	1.07	+0.01
Tottenham Hotspur	1.10	1.05	1.08	1.07	+0.01
EIS	1.10	1.05	1.08	1.07	+0.01
Brown (Matthew)	1.10	1.05	1.08	1.07	+0.01
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Beaumont (JA)	1.10	1.05	1.08	1.07	+0.01
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Grampian	1.10	1.05	1.08	1.07	+0.01
Br Dredging	1.10	1.05	1.08	1.07	+0.01
Central TV	1.10	1.05	1.08	1.07	+0.01
Cosalt	1.10	1.05	1.08	1.07	+0.01
Hambro	1.10	1.05	1.08	1.07	+0.01
Haynes Publishing	1.10	1.05	1.08	1.07	+0.01

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS	High	Low	Buy	Price	Change
Argyll	1.10	1.05	1.08	1.07	+0.01
Garfunkle	1.10	1.05	1.08	1.07	+0.01
Kellogg	1.10	1.05	1.08	1.07	+0.01
Beaumont	1.10	1.05	1.08	1.07	+0.01
TSW	1.10	1.05	1.08	1.07	+0.01
Devenish (JA)	1.10	1.05	1.08	1.07	+0.01
Danish S	1.10	1.05	1.08	1.07	+0.01
Tottenham Hotspur	1.10	1.05	1.08	1.07	+0.01
EIS	1.10	1.05	1.08	1.07	+0.01
Brown (Matthew)	1.10	1.05	1.08	1.07	+0.01
WST	1.10	1.05	1.08	1.07	+0.01
Banks (Sidney C)	1.10	1.05	1.08	1.07	+0.01
Aut New Z	1.10	1.05	1.08	1.07	+0.01
Tomkins (PH)	1.10	1.05	1.08	1.07	+0.01
Avon Rubber	1.10	1.05	1.08	1.07	+0.01
Brent (Chas)	1.10	1.05	1.08	1.07	+0.01
Beaumont (JA)	1.10	1.05	1.08	1.07	+0.01
Stobart & Pitt	1.10	1.05	1.08	1.07	+0.01
Metal Box	1.10	1.05	1.08	1.07	+0.01
England (D)	1.10	1.05	1.08	1.07	+0.01
Bejm	1.10	1.05	1.08	1.07	+0.01
Isack Johnson	1.10	1.05	1.08	1.07	+0.01
Savoy Hotels 'A'	1.10	1.05	1.08	1.07	+0.01
Storehouse (JA)	1.10	1.05	1.08	1.07	+0.01
Anglo Ltd	1.10	1.05	1.08	1.07	+0.01
Ampol	1.10	1.05	1.08	1.07	+0.01
Int Signal & Control	1.10	1.05	1.08	1.07	+0.01
BOC (JA)	1.10	1.05	1.08	1.07	+0.01
Chapman	1.10	1.05	1.08	1.07	+0.01
Arco	1.10	1.05	1.08	1.07	+0.01
Combined Tech	1.10	1.05	1.08	1.07	+0.01
MS Int	1.10	1.05	1.08	1.07	+0.01
Amec	1.10	1.05	1.08	1.07	+0.01
Barton (JA)	1.10	1.05	1.08	1.07	+0.01
Advest	1.10	1.05	1.08	1.07	+0.01
Br Aerospace (JA)	1.10	1.05	1.08	1.07	+0.01
Berkley Gp	1.10	1.05	1.08	1.07	+0.01
Babcock	1.10	1.05	1.08	1.07	+0.01
Grampian	1.10	1.05	1.08	1.07	+0.01
Br Dredging	1.10	1.05	1.08	1.07	+0.01
Central TV	1.10	1.05	1.08	1.07	+0.01
Cosalt	1.10	1.05	1.08	1.07	+0.01
Hambro	1.10	1.05	1.08	1.07	+0.01
Haynes Publishing	1.10	1.05	1.08	1.07	+0.01

UNDATED						
45	35% Consols	4%	45	44	0.0	
46	35% War Lk	3 1/4	46			
51	44% Consol	5	51	50	0.0	
51 1/2	44% Consol	5 1/2	52	50 1/2	0.0	
52	44% Consol	5 1/2	53	51	0.0	
58 1/2	25% Consols	5 1/2	58	57 1/2	0.0	
59	25% Consols	5 1/2	59 1/2			
60	25% Consols	5 1/2	60			
INDEX-LINKED						
128 1/2	103 1/2 Treas Lk	2 1/2	1988	129 1/2	..	2 1/2
113 1/2	102 Treas Lk	2 1/2	1989	113 1/2	..	2 1/2
113 1/2	102 Treas Lk	2 1/2	1990	113 1/2	..	2 1/2
131	87 1/2 Treas Lk	2 1/2	1995	127	..	2 1/2
131 1/2	87 1/2 Treas Lk	2 1/2	2000	128	..	2 1/2
129 1/2	86 Treas Lk	2 1/2	2005	112	..	2 1/2
127 1/2	84 1/2 Treas Lk	2 1/2	2010	112 1/2	..	2 1/2
127 1/2	84 1/2 Treas Lk	2 1/2	2011	112	..	2 1/2
126 1/2	83 1/2 Treas Lk	2 1/2	2012	112	..	2 1/2
126 1/2	83 1/2 Treas Lk	2 1/2	2013	112	..	2 1/2
126 1/2	83 1/2 Treas Lk	2 1/2	2014	112	..	2 1/2
126 1/2	83 1/2 Treas Lk	2 1/2	2015	112	..	2 1/2
126 1/2	83 1/2 Treas Lk	2 1/2	2016	112	..	2 1/2
126 1/2	83 1/2 Treas Lk	2 1/2	2017	112	..	2 1/2
126 1/2	83 1/2 Treas Lk	2 1/2	2018	112	..	2 1/2
126 1/2	83 1/2 Treas Lk	2 1/2	2019	112	..	2 1/2
126 1/2	83 1/2 Treas Lk	2 1/2	2020	112	..	2 1/2
126 1/2	83 1/2 Treas Lk	2 1/2	2021	112	..	2 1/2
126 1/2	83 1/2 Treas Lk	2 1/2	2022	112	..	2 1/2
126 1/2	83 1/2 Treas Lk	2 1/2	2023	112	..	2 1/2
126 1/2	83 1/2 Treas Lk	2 1/2	2024	112	..	2 1/2
126 1/2	83 1/2 Treas Lk	2 1/2	2025	112	..	2 1/2
126 1/2	83 1/2 Treas Lk	2 1/2	2026	112	..	2 1/2
126 1/2	83 1/2 Treas Lk	2 1/2	2027	112	..	2 1/2
126 1/2	83 1/2 Treas Lk	2 1/2	2028	112	..	2 1/2
126 1/2	83 1/2 Treas Lk	2 1/2	2029	112	..	2 1/2
126 1/2	83 1/2 Treas Lk	2 1/2	2030	112	..	2 1/2
126 1/2	83 1/2 Treas Lk	2 1/2	2031	112	..	2 1/2
126 1/2	83 1/2 Treas Lk	2 1/2	2032	112	..	2 1/2
126 1/2	83 1/2 Treas Lk	2 1/2	2033	112	..	2 1/2
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126 1/2	83 1/2 Treas Lk	2 1/2	2035	112	..	2 1/2
126 1/2	83 1/2 Treas Lk	2 1/2	2036	112	..	2 1/2
126 1/2	83 1/2 Treas Lk	2 1/2	2037	112	..	2 1/2
126 1/2	83 1/2 Treas Lk	2 1/2	2038	112	..	2 1/2
126 1/2	83 1/2 Treas Lk	2 1/2	2039	112	..	2 1/2
126 1/2	83 1/2 Treas Lk	2 1/2	2040	112	..	2 1/2
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126 1/2	83 1/2 Treas Lk	2 1/2	2043	112	..	2 1/2
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126 1/2	83 1/2 Treas Lk	2 1/2	2048	112	..	2 1/2
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126 1/2	83 1/2 Treas Lk	2 1/2	2050	112	..	2 1/2
126 1/2	83 1/2 Treas Lk	2 1/2	2051	112	..	2 1/2
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126 1/2	83 1/2 Treas Lk	2 1/2	2055	112	..	2 1/2
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126 1/2	83 1/2 Treas Lk	2 1/2	2060	112	..	2 1/2
126 1/2	83 1/2 Treas Lk	2 1/2	2061	112	..	2 1/2
126 1/2	83 1/2 Treas Lk	2 1/2	2062	112	..	2 1/2
126 1/2	83 1/2 Treas Lk	2 1/2	2063	112	..	2 1/2
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126 1/2	83 1/2 Treas Lk	2 1/2	2065	112	..	2 1/2
126 1/2	83 1/2 Treas Lk	2 1/2	2066	112	..	2 1/2
126 1/2	83 1/2 Treas Lk	2 1/2	2067	112	..	2 1/2
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126 1/2	83 1/2 Treas Lk	2 1/2	2069	112	..	2 1/2
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126 1/2	83 1/2 Treas Lk	2 1/2	2071	112	..	2 1/2
126 1/2	83 1/2 Treas Lk	2 1/2	2072	112	..	2 1/2
126 1/2	83 1/2 Treas Lk	2 1/2	2073	112	..	2 1/2
126 1/2	83 1/2 Treas Lk	2 1/2	2074	112	..	2 1/2
126 1/2	83 1/2 Treas Lk	2 1/2	2075	112	..	2 1/2
126 1/2	83 1/2 Treas Lk	2 1/2	2076	112	..	2 1/2
126 1/2	83 1/2 Treas Lk	2 1/2	2077	112	..	2 1/2
126 1/2	83 1/2 Treas Lk	2 1/2	2078	112	..	2 1/2
126 1/2	83 1/2 Treas Lk	2 1/2	2079	112	..	2 1/2
126 1/2	83 1/2 Treas Lk	2 1/2	2080	112	..	2 1/2
126 1/2	83 1/2 Treas Lk	2 1/2	2081	112	..	2 1/2
126 1/2	83 1/2 Treas Lk	2 1/2	2082	112	..	2 1/2
126 1/2	83 1/2 Treas Lk	2 1/2	2083	112	..	2 1/2
126 1/2	83 1/2 Treas Lk	2 1/2	2084	112	..	2 1/2
126 1/2	83 1/2 Treas Lk	2 1/2	2085	112	..	2 1/2
126 1/2	83 1/2 Treas Lk	2 1/2	2086	112	..	2 1/2
126 1/2	83 1/2 Treas Lk	2 1/2	2087	112	..	2 1/2
126 1/2	83 1/2 Treas Lk	2 1/2	2088	112	..	2 1/2
126 1/2	83 1/2 Treas Lk	2 1/2	2089	112	..	2 1/2
126 1/2	83 1/2 Treas Lk	2 1/2	2090	112	..	2 1/2
126 1/2	83 1/2 Treas Lk	2 1/2	2091	112	..	2 1/2
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126 1/2	83 1/2 Treas Lk	2 1/2	2093	112	..	2 1/2
126 1/2	83 1/2 Treas Lk	2 1/2	2094	112	..	2 1/2
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126 1/2	83 1/2 Treas Lk	2 1/2	2111	112	..	2 1/2
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126 1/2	83 1/2 Treas Lk	2 1/2	2113	112	..	2 1/2
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126 1/2	83 1/2 Treas Lk	2 1/2	2157	112	..	2 1/2
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126 1/2	83 1/2 Treas Lk	2 1/2	2161	112	..	2 1/2
126 1/2	83 1/2 Treas Lk	2 1/2	2162	112	..	2 1/2
126 1/2	83 1/2 Treas Lk	2 1/2	2163	112	..	2 1/2
126 1/2	83 1/2 Treas Lk	2 1/2	2164			



AREZZO

FOCUS

A SPECIAL REPORT  
By Judith Parsons/ Pictures: Chris Harris



# The golden city on a Tuscan hill



The inevitable mix of old and new in Corso Italia — time marches on next to a traditional wooden toy shop

## Into a rich future from a medieval past

Arezzo is the ideal place from which to consider the economic phenomenon now sweeping many parts of Italy and propelling it, the Italian government says, into the western world's fifth economic power, overtaking Britain. For Italy and Arezzo, 1987 has already been dubbed *l'Anno d'Oro* — the golden year.

Set on a low Tuscan hill in the heart of central Italy where the valleys of the Casentino, Valdarno and Val di Chiana converge to form a flat basin, Arezzo is capital of the province of the same name.

It is a natural road and rail centre, no more than two hours drive north of Rome on the Autostrada del Sole or 30 minutes south from Florence. When the Superstrada del Due Mari opens in five years' time, Arezzo will dominate links east and west.

A striking demarcation between the medieval and the modern greets the eye. In modern Arezzo, the product of a 1960s and 1970s building and baby boom, a sense of newness and achievement fills the air, even its shining white taxi fleet is new. Everywhere traditional gardens and chicken coops are being squeezed out by factory zones.

Little remains of the hypnotic charm of the old city, now tightly packed into three square kilometres behind ancient pentagonal walls. Here, a concentration of intricate, interconnecting palazzos, churches and piazzas span the 12th to 15th centuries.

This is another Arezzo, rich in architectural styles and unsurpassable works of art like Piero della Francesca's frescoes depicting the Legend

### AREZZO FACTS

- Population: 91,691
- Area: 384.4 sq km
- Major industries: gold, clothing, metalworking, shoe-making, woodworking, food processing
- Major events: Antiques Fair Piazza Grande, first Sunday of month; IV International Polyphonic Contest, August 28-31; Saracen Joust, August 31-September 7; Arezzo Gold and Silver Fair, first week September
- Tourist board: Piazza Riformatorio 116; tel: 20839

of the Holy Cross, or sacred works by Cimabue.

Here, the Romanesque intrusion of the church Pieve di Santa Maria commands that all stop and marvel at its 190ft-high magnificence of loggias and columns as they

multiply heavenwards towards a campanile shot through with a hundred double-mullioned windows.

Looking down from the Medici Fortress, the highest point of old Arezzo at the vast sweep of an anonymous, modern city stretching below, one is left with the feeling that the new is desperately trying to outpace the old.

Modern Arezzo is quite simply enjoying the fruits of a post-war renaissance. In less than 30 years, the city has transformed from an agricultural town where 66 per cent of the population were tied to the soil into the 20th richest city in Italy, with a football team in the second division.

The city's population has jumped from 66,511 in 1951 to 91,702 in 1985. Between these years the number of

Arezzines working in industry has rocketed 167.9 per cent, producing the second highest income in Tuscany after Pisa.

Now, no more than 5 per cent of Arezzines farm. The artisan boom has created a new generation of savers — bank deposits now total over Lire 3,266 billion (£1,633 million). The official gross provincial product last year totalled Lire 3,331 billion.

Arezzo's secret lies in the very stuff of all economic dreams — gold and an inherited streak of energy to create, innovate and produce — the qualities of a true artisan.

In this city, all that glitters is gold for Arezzo is Italy's largest gold-working centre. Last year its 600 registered goldsmiths handled more than 95 tons of gold, about 40 per cent of Italy's total output. Figures for 1985 show that Arezzo sold more than Lire 1,500 billion of gold items, 65 per cent to the overseas market. Since 1951 employment in this sector has leapt 231.8 per cent.

Signor Bianco Bianconi, the president of Arezzo's Chamber of Commerce, explains the phenomenon: "After the Second World War, Arezzo was left bombed and economically depressed, but due to the far sighted partnership of Leopoldo Gori and Carlo Zucchi, their goldsmith firm which survived the war started to expand as the world economy recovered. As Gori and Zucchi grew so did the number of jobs in Arezzo — by 1986 the group employed 1,134 people."

"People literally flocked from the hills to the factories. But in true Arezzine fashion, once the skills have been learned [in this case in Gori



Despite the rapid growth of modern Arezzo, the old quarter still remains the focal point and favourite meeting place for old and young alike

and Zucchi's workshops] no Arezzine is happy to work for another for long, he wants to set up his own business."

Today there are more than 600 goldsmith firms. A similar phenomenon occurred when Lebole, the clothes maker, opened its doors in 1961.

An artisans boom ensued which has transformed Arezzo into an innovative and industrious conglomerate of small, privately owned businesses operating from sleek factories, displaying high-tech and high security.

Today, 6,000 Arezzines work in gold firms, 11,000 in clothing, 4,000 in shoemaking, 3,000 in furniture and wood-working and 4,000 in machinery and machine tools. Arezzo's two artisan associations have 11,000 members.

As Signor Bianconi points out, Arezzo's rapid growth raises new issues. "Although we are the most effervescent and dynamic city in Tuscany, we now have a management gap," he said. "It is not a question of technology but inventiveness. We must create a new mentality in the gold and clothing industries that will produce the best designs if we are to stay ahead."

Keeping environmentally aware with such growth has been difficult, says Signor Aldo Ducci, Arezzo's socialist mayor for 20 years, who



Mayor: Signor Aldo Ducci

currently heads a socialist and communist coalition in town council. Mayor Ducci dismisses his fear of political longevity lightly: "I was in the Resistance so I have the ability to hold fast."

His real problem, he says, is coping with the city's refuse, water and infrastructural demands — Arezzo now has 57,000 cars, and one of the highest ratios of vehicle per family in Italy.

Mayor Ducci is confronting the environmental challenge head on. On March 16 he became the first mayor to ban the use of PVC in his city — a declaration of open war on the plastic mineral water bottle. On a rural note, he is

masterminding a major irrigation project in the Valdichiana to help redress the imbalance in the largely abandoned agricultural sector, which last year contributed only 3-4 per cent or Lire 250 billion to the Arezzine economy.

Although Arezzo province is well-known for its Chianina beef, vino bianco Vergine Valdichiana and its olive oil, it is reeling from the frosts of 1984-5 which killed 84 per cent of its olive trees; EEC meat policies and low cost French and German produce.

Closer to the town hall in Piazza della Libertà, Mayor Ducci is pushing an ambitious project outlined in the latest Piano Regolatore 1987-2000. This sets out the construction of an underground moving walkway beneath the old city to improve accessibility, and to excavate the city's splendid Etruscan, Roman and medieval past in a subterranean display.

Commenting on the rapid changes in Arezzo during the last 20 years, Mayor Ducci observes: "The result is typical of Tuscany; we started below the national economic level and built the economy on our shoulders — simply to free ourselves of it."

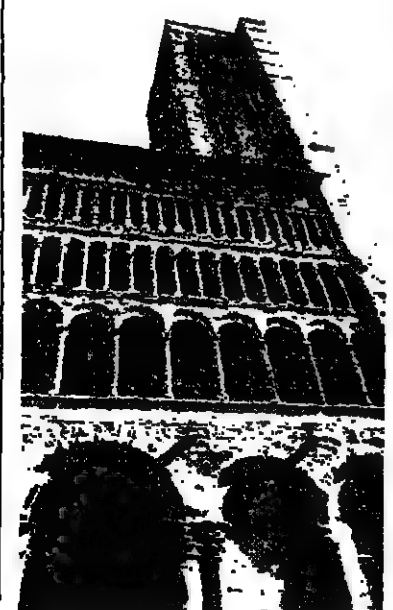
"I prefer Arezzo today," he says. "I am a modern man, not a conservative."

Commune of Arezzo/Press Department



## Falling in love with Arezzo

Above: Chimera of Arezzo, Etruscan Bronze of the 4th century B.C.  
Below: Pieve di Santamaria, Romanic Pieve of the 12th-13th century.



An illustrious subject of Her Majesty, the writer Walter Pater, was passionately fond of Arezzo. He wrote once that the splendid achievements of many a generation lay there, one beside the other, and that time, like a careful artist, had done nothing but add the last blending touch to the work...

Situated in the heart of Italy, on the way that links Rome to Florence, Arezzo is a town laden with history and traditions, a real cradle of arts: here Music moved its first steps with Guido Monaco, a new Poetry was born with Francesco Petrarca and Painting grew splendid with Piero della Francesca and Michelangelo.

Pater remarked how healthy was the air in Arezzo and how often the children who had been born there were prone to become distinguished men. Maybe the writer overstated the weight of tradition: it is true, however, that this little town can boast of an extraordinary number of artists and intellectuals.

But together with the works of art that enchanted Pater and many other travellers, Arezzo can count a lot of noteworthy activities today: a notable antiques market, the most important goldsmith industry in Europe, many fashion firms and clothing industries.



Piero della Francesca (1416?-1482) Story of the Cross: Constantine's triumph over Massenzio (particular).



There is something inherently calming about the vine and olive-covered hills of Arezzo province that makes you reluctant to leave, and free to think. Perhaps this is one reason why so many international writers have made the province their home.

Writers such as Muriel Spark, William Weaver, Germaine Greer, David Plant and Christopher Scaife have all chosen to spend their time here.

As you climb the steps of La Paternina, a 15th-century farmhouse in Terranuova Bracciolini, to a front door framed in a profusion of geraniums, cacti and wisteria, you can detect the soft welcome of Levant wind chimes through the Tuscan oaks. This is exactly where you would expect to find Christopher Scaife FRSL, poet, playwright and actor.

Described by his good friend, the late Professor Nevill Coghill as "a verbal hypnotist with an extraordinary perception of nuance," Christopher Scaife is a man, who despite his 86 years and failing eyesight, possesses such an infectious sense of vitality and enjoyment of life, that you can only succumb and join in.

Sitting in front of a glowing medieval hearth, embazoned with his family crest and motto: *Medio Tutissimus Ibis* — better the middle way — Christopher Scaife says he has lived here for 20 happy years, since retiring in 1966 as professor and chairman of the English department at Beirut's American University.

"I have not had a conventional life," he says, "being born into a family of actors. By 10 I was a professional child actor and at 14 ran away to join the army."

In a short story, *The last*

## At home with a verbal hypnotist



Christopher Scaife: An infectious sense of vitality

to St John's College, Oxford, Christopher Scaife's quick wit made him president of the Oxford Union in 1923, and winner of the Newdigate Prize for English verse.

But like many of his literary contemporaries, he sought inspiration in the Middle East, effectively cutting himself off as a celebrated poet from the wider audience of London and New York. He says he has never regretted this.

"I originally intended to retire to Portugal; although I found Italy particularly intoxicating, I thought it would be too expensive. So when a perceptive friend saw *La Paternina* at a price I could afford, I quickly came to have a look. I wrote back to my friend: 'Dear boy you couldn't be right!'"

Except for pumped water and electric light, *La Paternina* remains peacefully unchanged since 1785, although the empty cattle stalls and cellars are now respectfully lined with hundreds of books.

"I have been more than happy here — I have been content, and very much part of the community."

"I have found a sort of superfluity and have written some of my best, most mature stuff. I find the place very fertile from that point of view."

"I am not a professional writer so most of my books, such as *Tones and Overtones* (Scholar Press) are printed by subscription. Because I am not under that sort of creative pressure, I find it makes a lot of difference — being less on

your toes keeps you more firmly on your feet."

Much of his work is written for the speaking voice, playing on the cadences of living speech, of which he is a master in delivery. His later poems, all recorded on cassette, such as *The Actor and the Absolute*, *A Miracle of the 1970s* and *The Queen's Career* make spellbinding listening on a Tuscan evening.

His poetry has always reflected the importance of place, and his later work clearly shows a deep affection for his neighbours, the countryside and its traditions — now fast dying out.

In *An Elegiac Frieze for Aurelio Bernini*, (a close friend and neighbour who died in December 1973), Christopher Scaife sums up the quintessence of place:

*It was a soft December day, when he, Aurelio Bernini, came to a gap in the hills he'd not been through before, and faced the sunset lands — like morning. But he left us darkened: seemed in the sunset glow like a shepherd leading a flock of golden things out of our lives.*

At 86, death is not a subject which Christopher Scaife tactfully avoids; instead you must share the prospect openly and cheerfully with him. He writes:

*I shall go down that slope, westwards, no very long time hence — perhaps when its grass is hoar with frost; or when the startling-plumage landscape carries a fall of snow.*

Certainly, when that time comes, it will be as he has always lived — gaily.

As his friend and poet, the late Edmund Blunden points out, "It's a shame I did not perceive Scaife's qualities when younger, and yet several have done: may their numbers increase now."

# Arezzo

ancient town with a young heart

The glittering world with a Midas touch



AREZZO/2

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## The glittering world with a Midas touch



The search for El Dorado stops in Arezzo. As you enter Uno-A-erre, the world's biggest gold manufacturing plant, there is no question you are securely within the gates of a Fort Knox Italian style. Even the corridors are designed to trap the falling gold dust.

Here an average of 30 tons of gold, worth more than Lire 220 billion, is worked each year into fashion jewellery and medallions by the company's 1,134 craftsmen. In the vaults 6-7 tons await transformation.

Arezzo has cornered not only the Italian but the European goldsmith industry. Of the 222 tons of fine gold processed in the first nine months of 1986 in Italy, more than 95 tons officially reached Arezzo. The city's Chamber of Commerce admits that, unofficially, the true quantity is probably double this amount.

With the exception of Uno-A-erre, most of Italy's 3,000 goldsmith firms are run as small, privately-owned artisan enterprises employing less than 44 people. Arezzo has 600 such firms who operate using an official gold mark and about 300 who operate without one. Uno-A-erre (IAR) represents the first of these hallmarks.

Signor Ivano Micheletti, organizational director of Uno-A-erre, part of the Gori & Zucchi group, who joined as a boy of 16, said: "If Uno-A-erre were not here there would be no gold industry in Arezzo. It was Leopoldo Gori and Carlo Zucchi who created an environment which has attracted goldsmiths and related services."

"The partners formed an unusual symbiosis," he said. "They functioned like one person, one with a gift of economic foresight, the other with technical abilities. They understood the importance of the overseas market and people's needs."

The firm, set up in 1926 as a small laboratory, is now a fully integrated operation with companies handling all aspects of production from the marketing of jewellery to making the machines that make gold chains.

Despite automation, the skills of melting and pouring liquid gold in Uno-A-erre's foundries remain unchanged from the time when Benvenuto Cellini supervised such operations, though today rows of machines furiously pour out metres of gold chain in thousands of shapes and sizes.

On the factory floor, men and women dressed in blue still sit at benches fixing clasps, soldering links and assembling complex bracelets. Mountains of gold ebb and flow from their tables as they quality-check and complete their lots for the day. Signor Michelletti says: "To have machines is not enough."

Arezzo is also a town with one eye nervously on the US dollar. Its goldsmiths can purchase gold only through the Bank of Italy or a registered metal bank at a world fixed price. The Italian state holds a monopoly and the slightest monetary fluctuation affects Arezzo's entire industry and stocks.

At present the gold price is around Lire 17,000 per gramme and this is expected to remain fairly stable throughout the year, but there are fears that 1987 may see a falling off in the North American sales by 15 per cent.

During the crisis of the early 1980s when the gold price rose to Lire 23,000 per gramme, Arezzo's market was cut back by 50 per cent. This period called for desperate measures, or, rather, new forms of inventiveness, such as the hollow gold chain.

Ironically Uno-A-erre's size causes a big problem: "We are continuously having to update and invest in new designs and market them very quickly to ensure a long enough catchment time before smaller companies copy us," says Signor Michelletti.



Chain gang: quality checkers at the Uno-A-erre, the world's top gold manufacturing plant

Surprisingly it is the garage-size outfit that can work 24 hours a day with no overheads that prove the company's main competition.

For the moment, Uno-A-erre holds 3.5 per cent of the total world market; the UK is its major customer taking 19.3 per cent of export sales worth Lire 35 billion.

Perhaps more typical of Arezzo's gold industry is F.L.I. Anatrini, a family business employing 14 people who make necklaces, bracelets and

for gold-related industries, particularly the security business. CEIA, a family firm of 50 people, has captured the entire market. The company supplies all 600 registered goldsmiths with hand-held and walk-through metal detectors and systems for monitoring employees.

Not surprisingly CEIA has just moved to a new Lire 4 billion factory. Its security systems now dominate the world's airports, the EEC Parliament, embassies and banks.

**Arezzo has cornered the European market and is now looking for even greater success**

earrings. Anatrini is the 228th company to hold the Arezzo hallmark.

Signor Giuseppe Anatrini, the director, also heads a 15-company group, CONORA, which has pooled resources to employ a salesman who travels abroad with samples. Such a salesman often carries up to 600 pieces of jewellery. "You can't sell jewellery with pictures," he says. "You have to touch it."

It is however a risky business and salesmen are increasingly the target of robbery. Three or four now take place daily in Arezzo. Insurance costs are high but, says Signor Anatrini, "it's worth the Lire 20 million if we make Lire 1 billion."

Arezzo is a powerful magnet

Signor Giovanni Manneschi, the general director, modestly points out that his company's work in electro-magnetics has produced one of the most advanced systems for detecting explosive devices.

Arezzo's ingenuity does not stop here. MGZ, a company in the Gori & Zucchi group which manufactures gold chain-making machines, has diversified to avoid future pitfalls in the gold market. In co-operation with IBM, it has taken the plunge into robotics, building complete cells to customer specification, initially for the assembly of electronic components for printed circuit boards. MGZ's robotic system is capable of inserting up to 120 different electronic component codes.

Ingegnere Gianfranco Caccialupi, the general director, says: "These robots now perform tedious assembly jobs with greater precision than any human." So far Lire 3 billion has been invested and orders have already been placed with the cash register firm Sweda in Rome.

Given the small-scale nature of Arezzo's artisan community, promotion at a national and international level is crucial. This is the responsibility of the Centro Affari Convegni Arezzo which brings together international buyers and local manufacturers from all industries.

The Centro hosts Arezzo's key event, the annual International Gold and Silver Trade Fair, during the first week of September. It also houses a permanent gold and silver exhibition placing about 100 manufacturers on display.

Signor Franco Fani of the Centro Affari says the organization is under pressure to step up exports and is about to receive a Lire 7 billion boost in the shape of a 7,000 sq m exhibition centre.

The Centro's next promotional venture says Signor Fani is OROMODA - the inevitable combination of dress and jewellery in one alluring package. Arezzo shows no sign of losing its Midas touch.

## Fears of privatization upset Fashion Town

The notice says: *Defendere la Lebole per garantire lo sviluppo di Arezzo.* The warning in red and white letters at the gates of Arezzo's biggest employer, put up by the city's communist party, reflects a growing anxiety over the future of the Lebole clothes-making plant.

The worry is that Lebole, a partnership between Lanerossi and the state-owned ENI group is, after 12 years of streamlining from loss to profit, to be sold as a tempting morsel in the wider restructuring plans of ENI.

Lebole is by far the most important employer in Arezzo with 2,500 people working in the plant and another 800 on contract. A buyer has not been named so far, but French and British manufacturers are said to be among those interested. An announcement is due in April.

The fear says Signor Mario Accardo, president of Lebole, is that a new buyer will rationalize further and cut back on jobs, bring in new management and adopt a totally different sales strategy.

While the gold industry provides the lion's share of Arezzo's wealth, it is the clothing and shoe-making sector that provides most jobs, with 16,900 employees. Between 1975-85 the number of clothing firms rose 27.3 per cent from 1,870 to 2,390, while the number of people employed rocketed from 5,360 to 11,000.

Although names like Confor, Mimmina and Ingram are prominent in Arezzo, Lebole is the *raison d'être* for the clothing business. At the last provincial census in 1981, more than 80 per cent of the clothing industry was, in true Arezzine fashion, in the hands of artisan outfits employing up to 10 people. But as Signor Accardo points out, 3 per cent of people in the province of Arezzo work for Lebole.

Behind its 1960 s exterior, the company is a 1987 showcase for European high-tech clothing production. The day of the seamstress has gone.

Inside the plant, huge machines weave back and forth across fabric-covered tables with minds of their own.

Designer suits are cut out in less than eight minutes, while jackets rock silently past on conveyors to pick up another sleeve. Here 1,200,000 metres of fabric is turned into men's and women's clothes by computer.

In surgical-looking design rooms, computer operators skilfully plot and play on screens with the exact position of every pattern and size; fabric wastage is cut to the minimum with more than 90 per cent usage. This year



The Lebole plant is fully computerized, but a smoothing hand is still needed

Lebole expects to make 1,300 million men's suits with this technology.

Although the plant was first computerized in 1975 there has been constant updating. Between 1984-86 Signor Accardo invested Lire 7.5 billion in new technology and during this year another Lire 4.3 billion will be injected.

The company has gone through several contentious sales since it was set up in 1961 as a 50-50 Lanerossi-Lebole Brothers venture. During the 1960s it employed 5,200 people but by 1972 fortunes began to founder and Lebole passed into the hands of Lanerossi and ENI.

Then followed 12 years of heavy loss and the workforce was cut by half. But the remaining 2,500 jobs were more or less guaranteed. Last

year Lebole was back in profit on a turnover of Lire 180 billion, at which point ENI decided to sell.

With the exception of Torino, Lebole is Italy's most important clothing manufacturer in financial terms, providing 6 per cent of Italy's consumption during 1985. Lebole's men's classical suits holds 16 per cent of the home market and 3 per cent of women's suits.

Signor Accardo says the success is due to new sales strategies that have called for big investments like the diversification of brand names from eight to 26.

Although Lebole uses important designers like Laura Biagiotti and Bruno Piattelli, the company has recently found that demand for designer names is switching to brand names, hence Lebolemoda is selling better.

The company's main strength says the president lies in the mid-range market where labels like UomoLebole, LeboleGiovane and Arezza are doing well.

Exports last year totalled Lire 13 billion of which 60 per cent went to the United States. Lebole has a showroom there for its American collections on New York's Fifth Avenue.

In terms of rationalization Lebole has reached a competitive low in Europe, says Signor Accardo. But he adds that there is a fear that a new group will opt to manufacture the bulk of its product, not here in Arezzo, but in a developing country like China where labour costs are still around one-fifth lower.

Despite the signs of meane, Dr Giancarlo Grandi, Lebole's export manager for women's wear, says: "There is no doubt Lebole is one of the most modern factories in Europe: why should a private group buy it simply to throw it away?"

Arezzo's Chamber of Commerce adopts a pragmatic line; given Lebole's lead in the middle market, it says that privatization will only improve flexibility, equip it better to meet demands of fashion and strengthen Lebole's market position. No bad thing for Arezzo.

## Right in the centre of the Italian fashion.

You'll find us in the centre, at the very heart of Italy, at the crossroads of this nation's historical past and cultural life. A knowing blend of classic and avant-garde. A point of encounter between style and the expectations of the people who believe in us. We are right in the centre of what is today and what will be tomorrow the marvellous adventure of fashion, the great passion of the Italians.

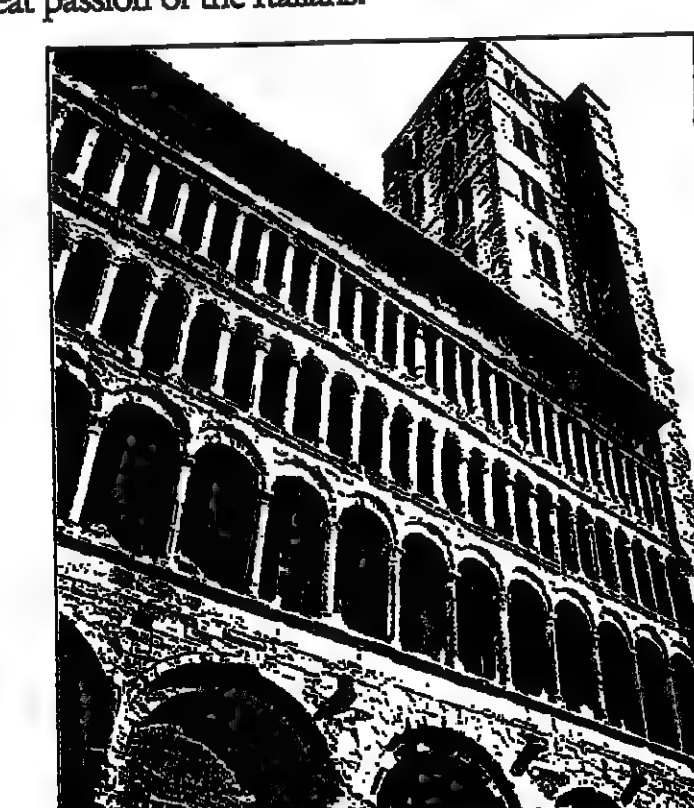
LEBOLEMODA is one of the leaders of Italian fashion for man and woman. LEBOLEMODA, today, is the signature behind:

Men's wear division: UOMOLEBOLE, LEBOLEGIOVANE, DIVO, BORSALINO, OSVALDO TESTA, OXON, SAN GIORGIO, BIAGIOTTI UOMO.

Women's wear division: AREZZA, IKEBANA, PORTRAIT designed by LAURA BIAGIOTTI, LAURAPIÙ by LAURA BIAGIOTTI.

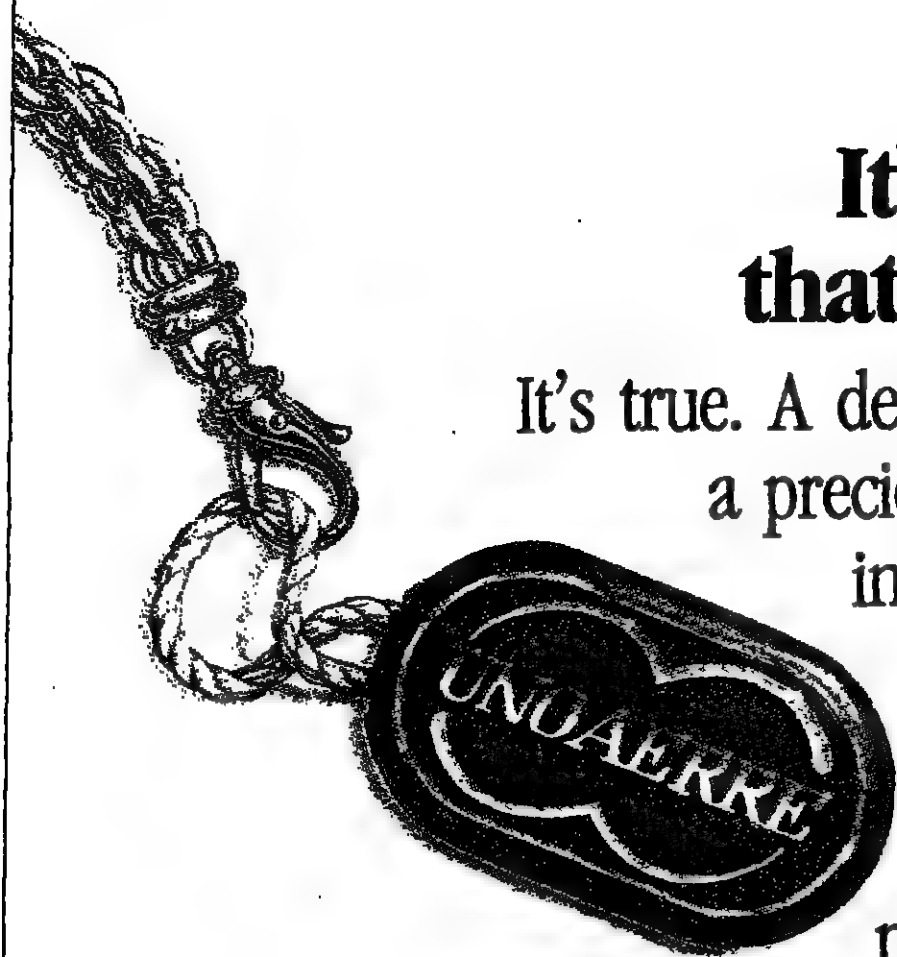
Casual wear division: GRAFFITI, CARGO.

**LEBOLE MODA**



Arezzo, Santa Maria della Pieve





## It's the little details that make things great.

It's true. A detail, like a signature, is very often a precious guarantee. With UNO A ERRE, for instance. Because in every piece of UNO A ERRE jewellery, you've got the sum total of 60 years of goldsmithery. 60 years of quality from every point of view, and that's what has made UNO A ERRE number one worldwide.

Beautiful finishing, the quality of the gold - its carat count guaranteed by ongoing application of the parameters provided by the D.C. Griffith & Co Institute of London - the full range of services, the far-reaching distribution network. Yes, you've got all this behind the little UNO A ERRE trademark.

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Arezzo perspectives: From the Bishop's Palace — three examples, left and far right from a newly discovered collection. Centre, the Santa Maria della Pieve. Centre right, detail from Piero della Francesca's fresco, The Resurrection

# Streets where genius walked

With medieval street names that read like an endless roster of the world's great men, it is not surprising to discover Arezzo is special. Maccenas, friend of emperor Augustus, Horace and Virgil, the poet Petrarca, Guido Monaco, inventor of the musical scale, painter Margaritone di Magnano and Spinello Aretino, architect and painter Giorgio Vasari and physician Andrea Cesalpino were all born in Arezzo, and many of Italy's finest artists and architects made it their home.

Piero della Francesca, Cimabue, Luca Signorelli, Bartolomeo della Gatta, Bernardo Rossellino and Andrea della Robbia all left their mark.

In old Arezzo, under three square kilometres of rusty-red roof tiles lies one of the greatest concentrations of man's creative genius. Some exceptional discoveries await in Arezzo's churches, palazzos and museums, best visited on foot and in the course of a day or two.

Arezzo exerts no mass appeal and has no wish to encourage the tourist buses. It is however seriously undervalued in touristic terms, says Signor Carlo Senesi, president of Ente Provinciale per il Turismo. Although he bemoans the fact Arezzo is simply a *cita di passaggio*, there is no infrastructure to support a tourist boom.

"We want to encourage couples and small groups of friends," says Signor Senesi. Last year Arezzo attracted half a million such visitors, which generated Lire 23 billion.

"Arezzo has one strong selling point," he says. "It costs half the amount to stay here than say in Florence or Siena, and is just as centrally located for visiting the province." He has a point, and

although Arezzo's 20 hotels are not in the luxury bracket, they are traditionally hospitable, clean, and *pappardelle alla lepre* is usually on the menu.

The city's origins are Etruscan and date back to the 6th century BC. By the 3rd century BC Arezzo was one of the 12 most important towns in Etruria (Tuscany), famous for its metalworking and pottery. Recovery of a 5th century BC bronze chimera and a 3rd century BC bronze *Milvina*, now on display in Florence, testify to Arezzo's artistic and technical ability.

An alliance with Rome turned Arretium, as it was then called, into one of the three most powerful cities of the Roman Empire, alongside Rome and Capua.

By 1098, Arezzo emerged as a free commune under Ghibelline in-

fluence, rivalled only by the Guelph rulers of the powerful and competitive city of Florence. The Guelphs finally routed the Ghibellines at Campaldino in 1289, and despite a revival under Bishop Tarlati, Arezzo surrendered to Florence in 1384.

In 1533, Arezzo was incorporated into the Medici Grand Duchy, until Napoleon conquered Tuscany in 1799. Further domination was in store under the Hapsburg grand dukes until 1861 when Arezzo became part of Italy. Despite this temporal interference, Arezzo's arts continued to flourish.

An important focal point is the Piazza Grande built in 1200 on a

slope, with pavement in a distinct herringbone design. The square is an architects' anthology. Two sides are 13th and 14th century houses, while the third is formed by the apse of the Romanesque Santa Maria della Pieve and the Palazzo della Fraternita dei Laici, a lay group who originally tended Arezzo's plague victims.

This palazzo resembles a layer cake, the creation of several architects, including Vasari, who added a belfry in 1573 tricking onlookers into thinking it was a church. The fourth side of the square changes abruptly and beautifully into the Loggiato del Vasari.

In and around this piazza are Arezzo's many antique shops, and on the first Sunday of each month an antique fair is held here, during which hundreds of stalls spill out from the piazza into the surrounding streets of Via Salaria and Corso Italia.

This well-patronized event is organized by Signor Ivano Bruschi, who unbeknown to many Aretines, has his own priceless, private collection which spans centuries, countries and cultures housed in his 13th-century palazzo close by. It does not take long to discover this is also a very private city.

The Piazza Grande also provides the perfect backdrop to the medieval tournament — "The Joust of the Saracen" — held on the first Sunday in September. Mounted knights and flag-bearers in medieval finery skirmish, feint and charge a wooden effigy of a Turk.

Arezzo remains dominated by its churches, in particular the cathedral started in the 13th century. This Tuscan Gothic exterior conceals in the dim half-light of all Italian churches, a Mary Magdalen by Piero della Francesca and stained glass windows by Guglielmo de Marcellis.

But it is in the museum of medieval and modern art in Palazzo Bruni-

Ciocchi that Arezzo's artistic achievements finally come into perspective, embracing the earliest sacred Aretine works up to the 19th century. Here too, is one of Italy's most important ceramic and porcelain collections from the Renaissance to the 18th century.

It is impossible to explore this city without wanting to see more of Piero della Francesca's work, especially now that the cycle of frescos in San Francesco are under covers. Arezzo is well placed to grant this wish, for it is in easy reach of Sansepolcro, a 30-minute drive to the artist's birthplace.

Monterchi, 30 kilometres from Arezzo, is an obligatory stop on the way. Here, in a small and surprisingly undistinguished chapel is the fresco of the *Madonna del Parto*, said to be a tribute to the artist's mother. This marvellous fresco survives by a quirk of fate, for it was painted on the only wall left standing when the church was demolished to make way for a larger cemetery.

Sansepolcro, close by, in many ways mirrors Arezzo's post-war boom, although on a smaller scale, jumping from 12,600 to 15,486 inhabitants due to the presence of Buitoni, the pasta giant.

Here, in the civic museum, once the town hall and now beautifully restored, is the gallery dedicated to Piero della Francesca. In this hall stands the golden polyptych of the *Madonna of Mercy* who gathers in the faithful under the protection of her cloak, including a self-portrait of the artist.

But in the central hall, intentionally painted on a wall facing the main street for reasons of perspective, is the fresco of *The Resurrection* — Tuscan art sublimated in philosophical and mathematical vision — and described by Aldous Huxley as "the best picture in the world." One can only agree.



Striking a perfect balance: Vasari's graceful loggia in Piazza Grande



The backstreets of medieval Arezzo: Little has changed, only the motor car intrudes

## A woman's touch with treasure

The future of Arezzo's past lies fortuitously in the hands of three expert women — Dr Margherita Leuzzi, superintendent of the Beni Ambientati, Architettonici, Artistici e Storici di Arezzo; Dr Anna Maria Maestri, her assistant and director of museums, and Dr Carla Corsi, responsible for all architectural restoration.

Between them they organize, conserve and restore the province of Arezzo's rich cultural, architectural and artistic past; a formidable task in financial, scientific, technical and legal terms — and in an earthquake zone.

Two works now dominate their programme, one of international significance — the saving of Piero della Francesca's frescos in the church of San Francesco, and the other, a new discovery, in the Bishop's Palace.

Arezzo has become a forum for the world's art lovers and restorers as "A Project For Piero" advances. More than a year of consultation and discussion is drawing to a close as restorers decide how best to preserve the frescos painted by Piero della Francesca between 1453 and 1464 in the basilica of the 13th-



Arezzo: A town forever dominated by its famous Tuscan Gothic cathedral

century San Francesco. The frescos, which depict the cycle of the Legend of the Holy Cross, are considered one of the most important achievements of Italian art, but they are being slowly destroyed by rising damp.

Visitors hoping to see them will be disappointed, for they are behind scaffolding and will remain so until 1992, if all goes well. The restoration, which is being funded in part by the Banca Popolare dell'Etruria, will cost Lire 10

billion, and will, it is hoped, be finished in time to coincide with the quinquennial of Piero della Francesca's death on October 12 1492, and the Christopher Columbus celebrations to commemorate the discovery of America.

In the meantime, visitors to San Francesco can make up for their disappointment by viewing the excavations now taking place on the church's front steps. Although critics say this dig has destroyed one of Arezzo's finest piazzas, others such as Professor Alberto Fainchi, an expert in archaeology and Roman history, point out that it shows excellent Etruscan, Hellenistic and Roman remains, including a Roman bronze-making shop.

"The Etruscans left lots of tombs," he said, "but at last we have found a house!"

Local attention is now fixed on the Piazza del Duomo, with the announcement last month of a discovery in the Bishop's Palace of 140 sacred and profane paintings representing the Florentine and Aretine schools of the 16th to 19th centuries — the product of Bishop Agostino Albertotti's collecting zeal during the 1800s.

Of these surprise paintings, nine are from the 16th century, 47 from the 17th century, 40 from the 18th century and two from the 19th century.

Dr Carla Corsi, responsible for the collection, says: "These works must now be studied in detail, but we do expect to find ample documentation of the Florentine school of the 1600s in the style of Cigoli, Vignali and Rosselli."

"The most significant painting is that entitled *Sposalizio mistico di Santa Caterina* by Pignoni. At least two versions of this painting have been noted, but this Aretine version has never been discovered by the critics," she said.

The paintings from the Aretine school of the 1600s

suggest the work of Salvati Castellucci, Bernardino Sapini and Oreste Porta and will also require further study, says Dr Corsi, as will the 18th-century paintings in the style of Sagrestani and Bonchi.

But the paintings are only a first step in a more important work — the total restoration of the Bishop's Palace, built in the 13th century by Bishop Guglielmo Ubertini.

Described as "sober, severe and dignified," the palace, which stands alongside the cathedral in Piazza del Duomo, is closed to the public. However, the interior reveals a perfect time-warped and marvellous example of the richness and splendour attained by the church during the 17th and 18th centuries — but this lavish combination of furniture, paintings and frescos is sadly deteriorating with time.

The palace walls are still alive with highly coloured frescos by Salvi Castellucci and the Aretine artist Buonamici, but the finest are those by Teofilo Tori, whose works in the great hall are beautiful examples of early 1600 painting.

The restoration project which will eventually open the palace to visitors, will take at least two years, depending on the availability of funds — at least Lire 0.5 billion is needed.

A private initiative announced on February 12 by two Aretine women's groups, Fidapa and Soroptimist International, have saved the paintings and initiated the first leg of the restoration. The work is to be executed by a school of young restorers, supported by the town and regional council.

"There is," says Dr Corsi, "some unease at placing the task in such young and inexperienced hands, but the move is considered politic if the restoration project is to proceed at all."

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**MacArthur**  
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Stark, however, will be heard on Mrs. Leng's heels. He has thrived in Sandy's Western class. Sir Warran Glenburnie and Charlie Brown missed a valuable out two weeks ago when Crookback was scolded for shedding his mane over the work for this Western Park.  
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Brigstock, which starts tomorrow with novice classes and a junior trial, will also provide a good test of the Olympic and foreign opposition heading for Badminton. Chief among them are Torrance Fleischmann from the United States with Finvarra, and the Olympic gold medalist Mark Todd with Christus and Michaelmas Day. Todd's two compatriots Tully Boyce with Mossman, the world champion silver medalist, and Tinks Pottinger with Volunteer.



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**Fines for those causing congestion**

The current weather forecast for westerly winds which will hit Selp Joseph's boat Cape Horn this weekend but once in the Atlantic Hughes faces the strong possibility of severe headwinds.

Honour sailor must then force the mainmast down since his disabled vessel has no way of being lowered.

Many stations have in the past given weather forecasts on request, but this service has been so overused by weekend sailors who forget to tune into the shipping forecasts that it is now dropping off the air.

In future those calling the coastguard for a personal insight

This week "I'll be in Newport for the prize-giving," he reports. "My boat is under charter between unlicensed or uneducated operators on the listening band channel 16. There was a case last week of a fishing boat blanking out all calls by rebroadcasting Radio 4's news programme on VHF waveband but according to the RYA cruising secretary, Bill Anderson: "It is more usual to hear the results of last night's party and the prospects of heat in the future, such conversations on channel 16 will land boatowners with a £2,000 fine."

● Following Eddie Warden-Owen's Congressional Cup win earlier this year, the first of the weekend, the organizers of this and other international match race championships around the globe have formed a world cup cruise to decide the true champions of the sport.

The events have become

However, say the organisers, chances of being seen on the PBS event at Perth in October and the Nippon Cup a month later, with the 1988 Congressional Cup, New Zealand's Citizens Cup, the Westley Royal Lympington Cup and events in Canada and Bermuda also acting as qualifiers.

**High club interest in Vyella Cup**

● Another match race championship which proved a great success last year was the Vyella Cup, an event designed to stimulate interest in this form of racing at Calshot and create a bond of experience within the UK. Last season a crew from the Royal Lympington Yacht Club carried off the 1,000 guinea first prize and this year, the event, to take place off Poole, saw one of its 17 boats finish in 8 to 13 minutes while as far afield as Ulster, Carmarvon

Bontang, the Freres-doré ship mainly owned by the Groenings signed magnate, George Countarras, looked set to clinch a second overall honour in the Miami Nassau Race yesterday. The penultimate heat in the Southern Ocean Racing Conference, normally one of the most enjoyable in a annual American series, provided a big boat benefit after the fleet faced a 20-knot head wind during the afternoon of the race. Yesterday morning many of the smaller boats had still not reached the finish 24 hours after the winning crew had been popping champagne.

Crewed by three men, Dennis Connor sailing the Italian maxi-boat Moro di Venezia,

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## GOLF: IRISHMAN TAMES A DIFFICULT COURSE

Letters, page 13

**TOMORROW**



By Alan Lee

ginal lead after the last, Smith Eccles's unrivalled finishing strength powered his mount to the line with half a length to spare.

profit than simple drinking. Two bookmakers had their satchels dipped into as the blizzard reached its point of maximum fury: One lost £500 and another

The really unjust thing is that people who bet for nonsensical reasons like nice names, or

there are moments when he has only to reach out to touch greatness. Another Irishman kissed the Queen Mother after the Gold Cup.

## Simon Barnes at Cheltenham

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there are moments when he has only to reach out to touch greatness. Another Irishman kissed the Queen Mother after the Gold Cup.

## Crenshaw revive

From John Ballantine, New Orleans

Race tomorrow week (12.15)  
For the second day running  
Oxford were comprehensively  
beaten in the afternoon by yet  
another Tidway crew and soon  
afterwards Cambridge in a

<i>Good on and off piste</i>	
Mürren	130
<i>Fine powder snow</i>	
Saas Fee	80
<i>Best pitches on the runs to</i>	
Villars	40
<i>Excellent skiing conditions</i>	

**By Patricia Davies**

good	good	sun
poor	bare	fine
powder	good	snow

By John Hennessy

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**By Jim Reilton**

● Today's outings: Oxford, 10.30 and 3.30; Cambridge, 10.0 and 3.30. All from 02.09.95.

## SNOW REPORTS

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	Depth (cm)	U	Piste	Conditions On Piste	Runs to resort	Weather (5pm)
AUSTRIA St Anton <i>First powder skiing</i>	80	390	good	powder	good	cloud
FRANCE La Plagne <i>Excellent skiing after overnight snow</i>	105	145	good	powder	good	cloud
ITALY Courmayeur <i>More snow needed</i>	30	180	icy	varied	worn	snow
SWITZERLAND Davos <i>Excellent skiing everywhere</i>	110	215	v good	powder	good	fine
Grindelwald <i>Good on and off piste</i>	55	190	good	powder	fair	cloudy
Mürren <i>First powder snow</i>	130	170	good	good	good	sun
Seefeld <i>Best patches on the runs to the resort</i>	80	250	good	poor	bare	fine
Villars <i>Excellent white conditions</i>	40	140	good	powder	good	snow

## Cheltenham

THE THINKER ch g Cantab-Maine Pet  
(TPM McDonagh Ltd) B 12-0 R Lamb  
(13-2) 1.  
Cybranden b g Prince Regent-Laverham  
Rose (J Bray) 9 12-0 C Grant (25-1) 2.  
Door Latch ch g Cantab-Kelly's Door. (H

**5.15 CATHCART CHALLENGE CUP**  
(Sleepyhead: £12.393; 2m 4f).

3.45 (3m ch) 1. SUCCEEDED (Mr P Johnson, 4-1); 2. Randomly (Mr J Osborne, 6-4 fav); 3. Tactroy (P Niven, 8-1). ALSO RAN: 10 Cranioy, Purple Beam.

will spend this season with Northamptonshire on a cricket scholarship. Hartland is 51 on his recent first-class debut for Canterbury against Auckland.

## Hexham

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4.50 (2m ch) 1, GROUND MA  
Osborne, 10-11: 2, Image (1)

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## Bowler's swansong?

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### Young scholars

• **Country against Australia.**

a minute and added another quarter

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Depth(cm)	Cervinus		120		20	
	Min	Max	Chesa Valmalenco	10	12	10
Sample/Host	Sample	Sample	Claviers	30	10	

[illegible]



RUGBY UNION

# Voices of tradition are raised as the board tackle amateur ideals

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

Two items head the agenda of the International Rugby Football Board, which began a round of committee meetings yesterday which will lead into next week's annual board meeting. They are the recommendation for payments to players otherwise unable to represent their country on tour and the adoption of disciplinary powers by the board.

"I don't think there has been a more important meeting in my years on the board," Harry McKibbin, the senior Irish representative, said. McKibbin, aged 70, has represented Ireland for 19 years and this is his final meeting; the only member of the board with longer experience is Dr Danie Craven, of South Africa, this year's chairman.

## Form favours confident Italy

By David Hands

The Italian youth team will be brimming with confidence going into tomorrow's Colts international against England at New Brighton. They won the equivalent fixture 16-0 in Perugia last season and on Wednesday they scored their first international victory over Scotland at any level when they beat the Scots Under-19s 26-6 at Meggledale.

## Twin success for Stonyhurst seven

Schools rugby by Michael Stevenson

The seven season is well under way, and the ambitious British Aerospace tournament at Fylde was won by Stonyhurst, who, the previous weekend, had also defeated the home school 26-0 to win the Mount St Mary's Seven.

At Fylde, they travelled a more demanding road. After winning their group, they beat Kirkham 14-6, Christ College, Brecon 26-0 in the quarter-finals, QRGSS Walsley 14-6 in the semi-finals, and Warwick 22-14 in the final.

## Courtauld's join Tyrrell

By John Blunsden

The announcement yesterday that Courtauld's are joining Data General as major sponsors of the Tyrrell Formula One team could lead to a British driver being selected for the vacant second seat alongside Philippe Streiff, of France, aged 31.

"Courtauld's have been very fair about the choice of driver and say that this should be our decision," Ken Tyrrell said yesterday, "and for personal reasons I would very much prefer to have a Brit in my team."

## Camp culprits reprieved

By Roy Moor

The Amateur Swimming Federation are not extending the suspension of Jonathan Broughton and Mark Foster, who were penalized after their "inconsiderate behaviour" while at a training camp in Florida last January.

The earlier ban on the two from international fixtures was considered to be appropriate punishment, the federation said in a statement yesterday. The pair have been sent a severe reprimand and warned that further misconduct may affect their future selection.

## Wind damage

By Roy Moor

Britain's chief Olympic coach, Paul Hickson, said he hoped Foster, with the potential to be a world-beater, would avoid further acts of indiscipline.

## Rally appeal

By Roy Moor

The International Automobile Federation are to appeal against Wednesday's court ruling in Paris in favour of Peugeot, who are seeking FF267 million in damages following the scrapping of the Group B class from this year's world rally championship.

## Clean sweep

By Roy Moor

The Loughborough University women's volleyball team beat Oxford University 3-0 to complete a clean sweep over English student opposition this season. They won the UAU title and also beat Cambridge.

"We in Australia don't want players to make a profit out of playing rugby. No one wants to see the game go professional. Our basic problem is that our boys get leave to play rugby but not with pay. We don't see rugby as an elite sport. If we are going to grow and prosper everyone has to have the capacity to enjoy the game."

Mr Turnbull agreed that the board, when they met on this issue last October, accepted the traditional meaning of amateurism without trying to define its relevance to the 1980s. "Players should not be paid for playing. It's as simple as that," he said.

In the week in which members of the board gather, it has been confirmed that 10 per cent of the profits of the World Cup will be devoted to establishing a permanent secretariat for the board. An executive base is badly needed, otherwise the IB are likely to find themselves bypassed by a body such as FIRA, that essentially French organization, who have gathered a large membership which more accurately reflects the growth of rugby as a world game.

## Cloak and dagger in Dublin

By George Ace

One can never be too optimistic about the result of anything when the Irish start to take life seriously. Yesterday's training session for the game against France at Lansdowne Road tomorrow was not only took place at a secret destination but also behind closed doors, the team and substitutes appearing at the usual venue, Angharadh Road, later in the afternoon.

What prompted this decision is difficult to understand, especially after Sunday's strenuous, day-long session at Lansdowne Road, when a whole series of line-out moves were initiated, not only under the watchful eye of Syd Millar but with the most present and any member of the public who felt like an outing.

It may be that in the fertile mind of Mick Doyle, the coach, a new play has been born. If it will be unfolded before 50,000 supporters, the vast majority of whom are at Lansdowne Road, the secret will be kept.

Doyle has admitted to a calculated gamble. "We must have the maximum height available at the tail of the line-out, if we are to blunt the main platform from which the French launch their attacks. We have picked a back row which think will be able to do the job," he says with his usual conviction and sincerity.

One can only hope he is right. But if the French achieve the grand slam, and the form book certainly indicates that, next week's training will be a lot more interesting, to say the least.

Backwell Comprehensive, from Bristol, are one of the lucky schools possessing a coach and organizer with the energy and ability to keep rugby alive against all the odds. Harry Maddock, in his 25th year, has introduced himself when they were a secondary modern school, can point to a proud record. Backwell have played 13 and won 11, losing only to the powerful St Brendan's 6-13 and all-conquering Pate's 26-0.

## Double blow

By Roy Moor

David Lewis, the Rosedale runner, has dropped out of the England team in the world cross-country championships in Poland because of influenza.

## Taped deal

By Roy Moor

A sponsorship deal by TDK, the tape manufacturers, may raise up to £100,000 for Britain's athletes. Funds raised will be shared between the British team for the World Championships in Rome this summer, and grants for promising students.

## Wind damage

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Heavy winds yesterday forced the postponement of the first men's World Cup giant slalom race of the season at Sarajevo, Yugoslavia.

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Front-runner: Garnet, the French prop, leads a practice for Saturday's match against Ireland

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# Francis's cap may yet be tasselled

By Gerald Davies

The Welsh team arrived in Edinburgh yesterday and, in the fashion of these things, promptly departed the city limits for the quiet seclusion of the Peebles Hydro hotel 25 miles away. It is unlikely, even there, that the Welsh selectors will find peace of mind. For the next 24 hours they will have to sit matters uncomfortably out not knowing whether Stuart Evans, their formidable tighthead prop, is fit enough to take the field against Scotland at Murrayfield tomorrow.

At last Monday evening's training, Evans injured his ankle. Although the injury was diagnosed as a slight contusion, he was unable to take full part in Wednesday's training and had to leave the field after the gentle warming-up period. The team will have a further run-out this morning and a decision is expected to be made about Evans's fitness by lunchtime today.

The selectors have taken the precaution by calling on Peter Francis, aged 29, the Munster captain, to travel with the team. It will be an immense blow to him.

# Wanderers weakened

By Keith Macklin

Widnes are angry at an interpretation of the disciplinary rules which threatens to rob them of Steve O'Neill, their front-row forward, for the Silk Cup Challenge Cup semi-final at Halifax on March 28. O'Neill was sent off against Castleford on Wednesday and will be dealt with by the disciplinary committee next Thursday, two days before the semi-final.

The Widnes annoyance is directed at the fact that they claim they were told that the Rugby League that for disciplinary purposes the two semi-finals would be deemed to have been played on the same day. The first semi-final between Leeds and St Helens was played last Saturday.

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FOOTBALL

# Biggest crowd in seven years for Coventry City

By Chris Moore

Coventry City, FA Cup semi-finalists, are assured of their highest first division gate for seven years tonight when they entertain Oxford United at Highfield Road.

Every Coventry supporter in attendance will be guaranteed a ticket for the semi-final tie with Leeds United at Hillsborough on April 12 and last night club officials were anticipating a sell-out of the 25,000 tickets available for tonight's game.

"It looks certain that the areas of the ground set aside for our own supporters will be full to the brim," the club's secretary, Graham Hovver, said. "We don't know how many supporters Oxford will bring, but we're estimating a crowd of 24,000."

"It's fair to say the city has gone Cup crazy," Hovver added. "Not being used to these sort of demands we have been caught on the hop a bit because we just aren't equipped to cope in the same way that the big clubs are. It's meant everyone working flat out all day, and even then some of us have been having to take paperwork home at night. But we're getting by and will be more than happy to face an even bigger workload if we get to Wembley."

If Coventry do reach their first-ever Wembley final they will also be assured of full houses at all their remaining League games. "In the event of us beating Leeds, when it then came to selling tickets for the final, priority would be given to the supporters who have attended most games between now and then," Hovver said.

Meanwhile, the FA's decision to switch the semi-final with Leeds to the Sunday, could cost the club's chairman, John Poynton, £7,500. He had already booked tickets on Concord to Florida and has been told the tickets are not refundable if he cannot get them. The jersey-based millionaire is trying to arrange an alternative flight.

Ray Lewis, of Great Bookham, Surrey, will referee the Tottenham v Watford FA Cup semi-final. Roger Milford, of Bristol, will handle the Coventry-Leeds tie.

## Clubs are to fight Cup ban

By Chris Moore

After a board meeting at Hillsborough Road, a Letter statement read: "After an initial approach by Oldham, Preston and QPR, the board have agreed to take legal advice in connection with these clubs concerning the FA Council's decision."

"The board will be taking no further action until counsel's opinion has been received."

The Leeds United forward, Ian Baird, charged by the Football Association with bringing the game into disrepute, will seek a personal hearing. The charge arises from an incident in the game at Portsmouth on March 10, when Baird was warned by police for allegedly making a gesture to the crowd.

Phil Hughes, Northern Ireland's first-choice goalkeeper, is out of the European championship qualifying match against England in Belfast on April 1. The Bury player, aged 21, was injured in a training accident following the retirement of Pat Jennings, has a dislocated shoulder after a training accident.

Chris Hemming, a Stoke City, aged 21, is the first professional footballer to play with a heart pacemaker, was revealed yesterday. The full back had the pacemaker fitted last summer, after being troubled for 12 months by breathing problems.

Keith Hackett, of Sheffield, will referee the Football League's centenary match against a Rest of the World XI at Wembley on August 8.

## Out-of-luck Barnet ordered not to panic

Non-League football by Paul Newman

Barnet, whose challenge for the GM Vauxhall Conference championship has suddenly faltered in the last month, go into a critical week in the season with their manager, Barry Fry, warning: "Whatever we do, we must not panic. We've got as far as we have by attacking and entertaining, and we must stick to those principles."

After a run of 11 victories from 12 matches, the Conference leaders have taken just two points from their last three games. Draws at home to Weymouth and away to Kettering Town were followed by a biggest surprise of all, a 1-0 defeat at home to Cheltenham Town last Saturday. In the same period Barnet lost at home to Farnham Town in the quarter-finals of the FA Trophy.

In the meantime, Scarborough have reduced the gap at the top to just one point and Aldershot, Telford United and Maidstone United, who all seemed completely out of contention a month ago, are poised to take advantage of any further slips by the leaders.

Of the top two, Scarborough appear to have the more demanding programme for the rest of the season. The next week, however, could prove decisive. Barnet face their two most difficult games, away to Telford tomorrow and Runcorn next Saturday, while Scarborough tomorrow entertain Kidderminster Harriers, who are always a threat, and travel to the much-improved Welling United a week later.

Fry said yesterday: "No games in this league are easy any more, but our next two will be a real challenge. Runcorn are never easy to beat and Telford are the best footballing side we have played this season. We're always going to Telford. Like us, they go out to entertain and if the match is half as good as our 2-2 draw against them at our place, it will be well worth watching."

## Rush targets medals

By Chris Moore

Inn Rush, who passed the 200-goal mark for Liverpool on Wednesday, has two ambitions before he leaves for Juventus at the end of the season. Rush's two goals on Wednesday beat QPR 2-1 and sent Liverpool nine points clear of their first division pursuers. He has his sights on a League championship medal and a Littlewoods Cup winners' medal. "Either will make me delighted in my last season," he said.

Reflecting on his 200th goal, Rush said: "I just thought I would hit it first time. I had the feeling that the goalkeeper wasn't expecting it and that's why it went in. The 201 I've scored, 150 have been like that."

Derby County took another step towards the first division, from which they were relegated in 1980, by beating Blackburn Rovers 2-0 at the Baseball Ground and now lead Portsmouth by two points.

FOOTBALL

# Biggest crowd in seven years for Coventry City

By Chris Moore

Coventry City, FA Cup semi-finalists, are assured of their highest first division gate for seven years tonight when they entertain Oxford United at Highfield Road.

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"It looks certain that the areas of the ground set aside for our own supporters will be full to the brim," the club's secretary, Graham Hovver, said. "We don't know how many supporters Oxford will bring, but we're estimating a crowd of 24,000."

"It's fair to say the city has gone Cup crazy," Hovver added. "Not being used to these sort of demands we have been caught on the hop



# TELEVISION AND RADIO

Edited by Sophie Witter and Adrienne Bridges

## Emergency without urgency

● E.R. (Channel 4, 9pm) — short for emergency room — is a cheap and cheerful American comedy shot on a single set and noticeably short on emergency. Indeed, most calls are social not medical. A multi-racial cast is lightly likeable and has the laid-back air that has dominated American comedy since *M\*A\*S\*H*. Presiding over this is Elliott Gould, a star of the original film of *M\*A\*S\*H*, which was directed by Robert Altman. Gould, a loose-limbed actor with a slack jaw and good timing, was memorable as the least likely Philip Marlowe in Altman's version of Raymond Chandler's *The Long Goodbye*. Altman's fortunes have declined since and Gould's too, it would seem. However, he gives no indication here of playing beneath himself, and helps to make the show quite watchable.

### CHOICE

● In 1982 Jo Spence, a photographer best known for her work *Beyond the Family Album*, was diagnosed as having breast cancer. She rejected the orthodox cure and set about looking after herself. In Spence's case this has a lot to do with becoming a political body. Much of her life has involved alternative routes: socialism, feminism and therapy arrived at via high street and documentary photography. Arena: Putting On a Play (BBC2, 9.30pm) is about learning to look properly at ourselves. In the wake of her diagnosis, Jo Spence took a series of photographs, at first just as a visual diary of something that frightened her, but from that grew what she calls phototherapy,

which uses herself and her immediate friends as subjects for self-exploration and self-expression.

● Ebony (BBC2, 7.30pm) includes an interview with Koltun Lee, the first black editor on a national newspaper. He is news editor of the forthcoming *News on Sunday*, which will adopt a positive anti-racist policy.

● The two radio choices are David Hare's play *The Bay at Nice* (Radio 3, 9.25pm) with Irene Worth and Zoe Wamaker, and *Landscapes* (Radio 3, 7pm), the first of five programmes which recreate a 17th-century London tradition, starting with *Jephthah*, by Giacomo Carissimi.



Chris Petit Keeping his hat on: Tim Woodward (right) and Gavan O'Herilly in *A Killing on the Exchange* (ITV, 9pm)

Confronting the reality of breast cancer: Photographer Jo Spence in *Arena* (BBC2, 9.30pm)

### BBC1

- 6.00 *Ceejay AM* 6.30 *Weather* on VHF (see below)
- 7.00 *Breakfast Time* with Frank Bough, Sally Magnusson and Jeremy Paxman. National and international news at 7.00, 7.30, 8.00 and 8.30; regional news and traffic reports at 7.15, 7.45 and 8.15; weather at 7.25, 7.55 and 8.25.
- 8.40 *Watchdog*. Consumer problems investigated 8.55 *Regional news and weather*.
- 9.00 *News* and weather 9.05 *Day to Day*. Presented by Robert Kilgallon. Norman Lunnott in defence of the Chancellor's fourth budget, with an audience of businessmen, consumers and pensioners. 9.45 *Adrian Line*. With Paul Clark and Eileen Evans.
- 10.00 *News* and weather 10.05 *Neighbours* (r) 10.25 *Children's BBC* with Philip Schofield 10.30 *Play School* (r) 10.50 *Peddlers* (r).
- 10.55 *Five to Eleven*. Hannah Gordon with a thought for the day 11.00 *News* and weather 11.10 *Hand to Hand* (r) 11.25 *Open Air* includes news and weather at 12.00.
- 12.20 *The Tom O'Connor Roadshow*. The last programme from Port Talbot 12.55 *Regional news and weather*.
- 1.00 *One O'Clock News* with Martyn Lewis. Weather 1.25 *Neighbours*.
- 1.50 *Mop and Swirl* (r) 8.05 *The Line*. Drama by Carla Lane. (r) 2.35 *Knots Landing* 3.25 *Box Clever* with questions from Dr Sue Kingman.
- 3.50 *Children's BBC*. Cornelia. Presented by Tracy Braden, with guests *Five Star 4.10* *Yogi Bear* (r) 4.15 *Jacksonville*. Part five of the Iron Man by Ted Hughes, read by Tom Baker.

### BBC 2

- 6.55 *Open University*. Science: spreading oceans. Ends at 7.30.
- 9.00 *Ceejay*.
- 9.30 *Daytime on Two*. Moving 9.55 *Reading*, at the fair 10.15 *The Caledonian Canal* 10.35 *The re-development of the London docklands* 11.00 *Part three of France - France* 11.17 *Fashion designers* 11.40 *The vicars of Heale after the Reformation*.
- 12.00 *The Coventry Belgrade Theatre* in Education perform a play about the mentally handicapped 12.35 *The cage* 1.05 *Young people who make their presence felt* 1.35 *The dilemma of abortion*. Fashion designers 2.05 *You and Me* (r).
- 2.15 *International Snooker*. First semi-final of the Tubborg World Cup from Southampton. Includes news and weather at 3.00.
- 3.50 *News*, regional news and weather.
- 4.00 *Pamela Armstrong* with guests and music.
- 4.30 *International Snooker*.
- 5.10 *Horizon*. Henry Patroklos explains how progress is made in engineering - by making mistakes. (r)
- 6.00 *First Lesson in Joyous Sound* (1972). Lesson escapes onto the streets while Lucy is being operated on. Directed by Jack Wrather.
- 7.10 *Under Sail*. Tom Salmon tells the story of the *Brita* ship, which was abandoned in a Danish harbour until recently restored to sail the world. (r)
- 7.30 *Elbowy*. Vassilios Belton interviews Koltun Lee, the news editor of the BBC on Sunday and the first black editor in Britain. Also a look at the work of Trinidadian sculptor Francisco Cabral and music from Coventry's *Century Steel Band*.
- 8.00 *On the Road*. Diane Kenwood reports on the rehearsals of Richard D'Oyly Carte's new musical. Bodywork: John Diamond looks at the effect of Princess Diana on the sales of hats in Luton and Glen Woodup meets the director of the London Planetarium, John Ebdon.
- 8.30 *Gardens' World* from Proboscis Gardens, Cornwall.
- 9.00 *Now - Something Else Again*. Comedy time with Roy Hattersley and many more (r)
- 9.30 *Arena*. Jo Spence's photographs of her body and her past became part of her fight against breast cancer. (see Choice)
- 10.30 *Facing up to AIDS*. Counsellors and young people discuss the problems of teaching. 11.30 *News*.
- 11.45 *News*.
- 11.55 *International Snooker*. Second semi-final from Southampton. Ends at 12.30.

### ITV LONDON

- 6.15 *TV-am* with Richard Kaye. Weather at 6.25 and 6.55; news at 6.30; sport at 6.40; and exercises at 6.55.
- 7.00 *Good Morning Britain*. Presented by Anne Diamond and Mike Morris. News at 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 and 9.00; cartoon at 7.25; sport at 7.40; pop music at 7.55 and 8.30; and 8.55. After Nine is presented by Jayne Irving, with guest star Russell Grant on astrology.
- 9.25 *Thames News Headlines*.
- 9.30 *Schools: A place to live* 9.47 *How we used to live* 10.07 *Junior maths*, part two 10.25 *Shape and strength* 10.30 *German* 11.15 *How ice cream is made* 11.27 *The singer* 11.44 *The world of the micro*.
- 12.00 *One and One* (r) 12.10 *Rainbow* 12.30 *A Sense of the Past*. Architectural legacies of the Midlands Railway Company. (r)
- 1.00 *News at One* with Leonard Patrick.
- 1.30 *Thames News*.
- 1.30 *Friday Matinee: Nobody Runs Forever* (1968). Detective thriller starring Rod Taylor as Australian Scobie Malone, who is sent to London to arrest the Australian High Commissioner for killing his wife 25 years earlier. But someone is trying to kill the Commissioner. With Christopher Plummer and Lilli Palmer. Directed by Ralph Thomas.
- 3.25 *Thames News Headlines*.
- 3.30 *Sons and Daughters*. The saga of two Australian families, starring Michael Fassbender.
- 4.00 *Children's ITV*. *Rainbow* puppet theatre 4.15 *Batfink* (r) 4.30 *T-Bag* 5.00 *Denise Moore* (r) 5.30 *Bellamy's Bugle*.
- 5.15 *Connections*.
- 5.45 *News* with Fiona Armstrong.
- 1.25 *Closedown*.

### CHANNEL 4

- 12.15 *Their Lordships' House*. (r) 2.30 *Passage to Britain*. Part seven: the Hungarians. Before the Second World War a group of Hungarians came to London, around 15,000 in total. They included men like publisher Andre Deutsch and writers like Arthur Koestler and George Mikas. (r)
- 7.00 *The Hewytred Game*. This week's couples are: Mark and Fiona Dobson-Vida from West Drayton, Adrian and Amanda Lowes from Barnard Castle in County Durham and Neil and Stephanie Barlow from Kennington. Presented by Gloria Hunniford.
- 7.30 *Murder, She Wrote*. Corned beef and cabbage: Jessica helps her niece who is suspected of a murder. Starring Angela Lansbury, Jeff Corwin and Susan Anstey.
- 8.30 *Running Wild: The Music Man*. Ray Brooks plays Max, a writer of rock musicals who is trying to promote. Janet Keyes is Max's wife; Michelle Collins his daughter and Peter Amory her boyfriend.
- 9.00 *A Killing on the Exchange*. Merchant banker thriller by Paul Abertan. (Oracle)
- 10.00 *News at Ten* presented by Sandy Gall and Carol Barnes.
- 10.30 *The London Programme*. John Taylor presents the week's topic: the Channel Tunnel. Will it raise the necessary £750 million and what effects will it have if completed? Followed by LWT headlines.
- 11.05 *South of Watford* takes a look at Battersea Power Station and the people who have worked there and lived near it. *Magpie* (1978). Anthony Hopkins, Ann-Margret and Burgess Meredith star in this story of magician Corky Waters who is taken over by the ventriloquist's dummy. Directed by Richard Attenborough.
- 11.25 *Closedown*.

### VARIATIONS

- BBC1** Today 6.35-7.00 Sportsday 7.00-7.15 News and weather 8.00-8.15 *Adrian Line* 8.15-8.30 *Open Air* 8.30-8.45 *News* 8.45-8.55 *Weather* 8.55-9.00 *News* 9.00-9.15 *News* 9.15-9.30 *News* 9.30-9.45 *News* 9.45-10.00 *News* 10.00-10.15 *News* 10.15-10.30 *News* 10.30-10.45 *News* 10.45-11.00 *News* 11.00-11.15 *News* 11.15-11.30 *News* 11.30-11.45 *News* 11.45-12.00 *News* 12.00-12.15 *News* 12.15-12.30 *News* 12.30-12.45 *News* 12.45-1.00 *News* 1.00-1.15 *News* 1.15-1.30 *News* 1.30-1.45 *News* 1.45-2.00 *News* 2.00-2.15 *News* 2.15-2.30 *News* 2.30-2.45 *News* 2.45-3.00 *News* 3.00-3.15 *News* 3.15-3.30 *News* 3.30-3.45 *News* 3.45-4.00 *News* 4.00-4.15 *News* 4.15-4.30 *News* 4.30-4.45 *News* 4.45-5.00 *News* 5.00-5.15 *News* 5.15-5.30 *News* 5.30-5.45 *News* 5.45-6.00 *News* 6.00-6.15 *News* 6.15-6.30 *News* 6.30-6.45 *News* 6.45-7.00 *News* 7.00-7.15 *News* 7.15-7.30 *News* 7.30-7.45 *News* 7.45-8.00 *News* 8.00-8.15 *News* 8.15-8.30 *News* 8.30-8.45 *News* 8.45-9.00 *News* 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